

President Reagan on the road to recovery

President Reagan is said to be making a remarkable recovery after Monday's operation to remove from his chest the bullet fired by a would-be assassin. His press secretary, hit the head by another bullet, is in a serious condition but

Alert, in good spirits and in control

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, March 31
President Reagan, who was not and wounded by a would-be assassin yesterday, is recovering well in a Washington hospital. His doctor reported that the President passed an excellent night and was alert on the road to recovery. He said that Mr Reagan would remain in hospital for two weeks, and would be two and a half to three months before being completely covered "and riding horses again".
For a man of 70, who was seriously wounded, Mr Reagan making a remarkable recovery, according to Dr Dennis Leary.
Three other men were wounded with Mr Reagan, and the White House said that they were not seriously injured. They are James Brady, the President's press secretary, "is going to be" and the chances were good that he would not be seriously injured by the bullet which pierced his brain.
Doctors called Mr Brady's injuries extraordinary but were still uncertain about prospects for a complete recovery.
The doctor and other official spokesmen are making a concerted effort to show that the government of the United States goes on, that Mr Reagan is not seriously incapacitated, that he is alert, in good spirits, and in control of his Administration.
He signed an important farm bill this morning and photographs of the document were distributed to the press. Some reporters thought his signature rather shaky.
The spokesman recounted serious jokes that the President as made since reaching the hospital.
The President was told, at about noon, of his Press Secretary's condition by his Chief of staff, Mr James Baker.
His reaction was "Damn, damn, damn", and his eyes welled with tears", Mr Baker said. Dr O'Leary said earlier that Mr Reagan had not been hit about Mr Brady's condition, or fear of upsetting him, and avoided answering the obvious question, whether the fact that President Reagan was injured was a setback to his recovery.
The circumstances of the assassination attempt are now being examined in every detail by the Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Washington police and the press.

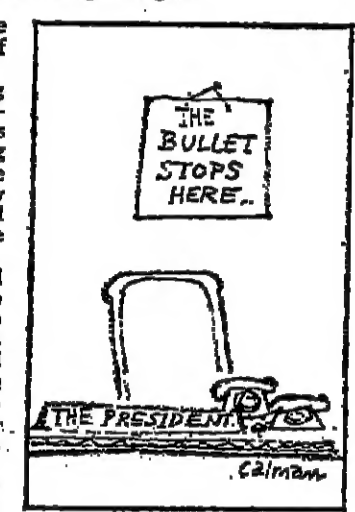


John Hinckley, flanked by two policemen, is driven away from the court in Washington after being charged.

Mr Reagan had addressed a convention of trade unionists in the Washington Hilton Hotel and was leaving the building and heading for his car at 2.30 pm when he was shot. As usual, there were plenty of policemen and Secret Service agents around.
The gunman was standing among a small group of people near the hotel door, next to an area where the press had set up camp. He had no business to be there and a crucial part of the investigation will be to determine whether he could have been prevented from walking up to the press party and standing there.
The usual television cameras and cameramen remembered afterwards that the gunman seemed edgy and hostile.
Mr Reagan walked the 30ft or so to his car, waving first to his right, then to his left. The shots were fired just as he reached the car.
He was half turned to his left, facing the gunman, and the bullet that hit him went under his armpit, was deflected by a rib, and lodged three inches inside his lung. One eye-

witness said that the smile "was just wiped off the President's face".
It was a .22 bullet and the doctors now say that the President's life was never in any danger. The secret service men responded immediately. The one directly behind the President seized him and hurried him bodily into the car. Two further bullets struck the car before it drove off.
Mr Reagan was driven immediately to George Washington University Hospital, about a mile away. The White House press office at first announced that the President was unhurt and was going to hospital to see the injured man.
Mr Reagan was helped by his right hand against his left side. The doctor said this morning that the President discovered that he was wounded only when he reached the emergency room. The doctor remarked that in such circumstances patients have a strong rush of adrenaline and often misjudge their own condition.
Meanwhile, in a scene of intense confusion outside the hotel, the three-wounded men

were on the ground and police and agents had piled on top of the gunman to disarm him.
There was much shouting and gesticulating with guns, terror, noise and photographers and cameramen surging around, but none of the police fired a gun. If not, they were at least competent and did everything that had to be done quickly and efficiently.
The gunman was handcuffed and hustled away and the wounded men were loaded into ambulances and driven off. Reporters who were there, and everyone who has studied the videotapes of the incident conclude that the assassination attempt could not have been prevented.
Unless the President travels in an armoured car, never appearing in public, a maniac with a gun will get within range.
Mr James Brady was today reported to be in very serious condition. The bullet which passed through his skull caused severe brain damage.
His surgeon said early today that he was "somewhat responsive" although it was still too early to make a complete prognosis.
The condition of Mr Timothy McCarthy, the Secret Service agent who was the most seriously wounded victim after Mr Brady, was today described to be "stable and good".
He was shot in the chest as he was protecting the President. The bullet passed through his right lung, doing little damage, and lacerated his liver.
Mr Thomas Delahanty, a policeman, was today listed in serious condition with a neck wound and a bullet lodged near his spinal cord. The prognosis for his recovery is described as "good".
When the shooting occurred, Vice-President Bush was in a political meeting in Houston, Texas. He was immediately summoned back to Washington. Shortly afterwards he



appeared on television to announce, "I can reassure this nation and a watching world that this Government is functioning fully and effectively".
In the interval, there was doubt over the control of the government. Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, arrived in the White House soon after the shooting and, in his own words, took control. He appeared in the press room to announce this, and to say that the armed forces had not been put on the alert.
He claimed that his authority derived from his office, which is third in order of seniority in the executive. However, he also seemed to believe that he is second in order of succession to the Presidency, after the Vice-President. In fact he comes behind the Speaker of the House of Representatives (now Mr Thomas O'Neill) and the President pro tempore of the Senate, Senator Strom Thurmond.
The question became moot with Mr Bush's arrival and the news from the hospital that Mr Reagan would not be incapacitated for long.
Shooting aftermath, page 7
United States self-examination, and Diary, page 14
Leading article, page 15

King delays resignation of Belgian Government

From Peter Norman
Brussels, March 31
Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, today offered the resignation of his coalition Government of French- and Flemish-speaking Christian and Socialist parties to King Baudouin.
The move came after a brief meeting of the Cabinet this morning at which the Christian Democrat Prime Minister failed to win the support of his Socialist coalition partners for radical measures to help resolve Belgium's economic crisis.
Later in the afternoon the King met leaders of all Belgian political parties and the heads of employers and trade union organizations. He did not accept his Prime Minister's resignation immediately, but instead said he would wait until tomorrow in an attempt to resolve the crisis.
Mr Martens had proposed that the system of automatic linking incomes to the rise in the cost of living should be suspended until the end of the year and then reformed. This radical break with previous policies was intended to bolster the Belgian franc after it had come under heavy pressure on currency markets to devalue in the European Monetary System at the end of last week and yesterday.

The Belgian National Bank today announced an increase in the bank rate to 16 per cent from 13 per cent in an attempt to prevent a further run on the franc.
This latest political crisis broke on Sunday night. Mr Martens called a special session of the Cabinet to announce his plans to suspend the system of automatic linking incomes and his intention of taking petrol, tobacco and drink out of the basket of products that determine the cost of living index from the beginning of next year.
This latter move was intended to ensure that the automatic rises in wages, salaries, rent and pensions that follow increases in prices would be lower than in the past. Despite meeting until 4 am on Monday, the Prime Minister failed to win Socialist support for his scheme.

What went wrong, page 19
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Army seizes power in Thailand

Bangkok, Wednesday morning—The Thai Armed Forces staged a coup early today against the Government of General Prem Tinsulanonda, the official Radio Thailand said.
The radio said the coup was staged by General Sant Chitapan, the deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Army. It said the takeover was backed by the three Armed Services and the police.
General Prem, who took office just over a year ago, had been reappointed Prime Minister and Army Commander-in-Chief, the radio said. The announcement told the public to stay calm.
The radio said General Sant had taken over "because of the deteriorating situation. Several political parties are undermining the stability of the Government with an intention of taking over the country and changing it into a dictatorial state".
The announcement said General Sant was heading a revolutionary committee.
The Thai constitution was immediately abolished and the Cabinet and Parliament dissolved by a revolutionary committee, which took over at 2 am, according to the announcement, which was broadcast at 5 am. AP.

Libel jury questions tax-free charity status of Moonies

By Frances Gibb
A High Court jury yesterday called for an investigation into the charitable status of the Moonies, or Unification Church, after finding that a newspaper article which claimed the cult broke up families and brainwashed converts was not libelous.
In a rider to their unanimous verdict in favour of Associated Newspapers, brought in after 3½ hours at the end of the longest libel trial in history, they called on the Inland Revenue Department to investigate the tax-free status of the sect "on the grounds that it is a political organization".
The jury had also wanted to include a reference to another organization, but the judge, Mr Justice Comyn, instructed it to be deleted.

In a second rider the jury of five women and six men also added: "Whatever the effect of our verdict may be, we express our deep concern for the young idealistic members of it (the Unification Church)".
The verdict, delivered on the hundredth working day of the case, brought to an end an action for libel which has taken more than six months and involved 117 witnesses.
It was brought by Mr Dennis Orme, aged 42, spiritual leader of the Unification Church in Britain, over an article in the Daily Mail published in May, 1978. Afterwards Mr Orme said the finding did not mean the end of the Unification Church in Britain. He dismissed the verdict as "inconsequential" and said he would definitely consider an appeal. "I do not think it is much of a setback; you win some, you lose some", he said.

Mr David English, editor of the Daily Mail, said the verdict was a great vindication of thorough investigative journalism. The decision to fight the case which was expected to be long, hard and costly, was a difficult one but it was worth every penny.
"We set out to draw attention to the Unification Church and expose them and we have succeeded not only with the story but in this titanic battle as well."
He said he hoped the investigation called for by the jury would be raised by MPs in the House of Commons. "We have

put the Moonies under pressure and drawn attention to their action. We have shown what people have gone through; all the horrific tragic and family distress that they have caused and I predict they will now go into decline."
The Charity Commissioners said they would consider the ruling and its implications. The commissioners considered any complaints about its charities and occasionally undertook investigations which in rare cases led to their removal from the register, a spokesman said.
The Inland Revenue said it could not discuss individual cases. As a general principle, however, if the body was a charity in law and claimed tax exemption, the way it spent its money and its charitable status were considered when it applied for the exemption annually.

Costs in the action, estimated at between £50,000 and £750,000, are to be borne by the Unification Church members who have already raised £215,000 deposited into court by Mr Orme as a security. That will be set against Associated Newspapers' costs after tax. Mr Orme said yesterday he would honour any extra costs not covered by that sum.

Later at the church's headquarters in Lancaster Gate, London, Mr Orme said he did not regret the action. On the question of a possible investigation by the Inland Revenue or Charity Commissioners, he said that the same charge of being political had been laid against the church in the United States, but that it had still retained its tax-free status.

There was no evidence during the trial of any political activity by the Unification Church in Britain.
Mr Orme also dismissed the Daily Mail's claims about brainwashing converts and breaking up families.
The members of the sect get their names of Moonies from Sun Myung Moon, the founder of the Unification Church. Cult's "love-bomb", page 3

Living standards rise to record level

By Frances Williams
Britons never had it so good last year, government figures show. Pay rises well above the rate of inflation for those in work pushed personal living standards to record levels, outweighing the effects of mounting unemployment and lower pay settlements later in the year.
This was in marked contrast to the fall in national output over the period and was achieved only at the expense of company profitability and investment.
Total personal incomes of which wages and salaries make up nearly 60 per cent, rose 18 per cent in 1980 from 1979, but the increase was largely eroded by inflation.
Living standards, measured by real personal disposable incomes—that is, after tax and after adjusting for rising prices—went up by just 2 per cent. This follows jumps of over 6 per cent between 1978 and 1979 and over 8 per cent the year before.

By the end of last year, however, the recession was beginning to bite. Living standards this year are widely expected to fall quite sharply.
A sharp upward blip in real personal disposable income in the last quarter of 1979 reflected large tax rebates.
Profits of industrial and commercial companies, after deducting stock appreciation, went up by 7 per cent in money terms between 1979 and 1980 but, excluding North Sea oil profits, fell by 5 per cent.

Gunman in cell under sedation

From David Cross
Washington, March 31
John Hinckley, aged 25, the son of a wealthy Republican, is today reported to be under sedation in prison.
A Department of Justice spokesman said that Mr Hinckley was taken to the Marine Corps base, about 30 miles south-west of Washington, early today after a preliminary court hearing in Washington late last night. He was segregated from other prisoners and occupied a 10ft cell with a bed and toilet.
On the recommendation of doctors Mr Hinckley is being sedated with valium.

Mr Hinckley was charged at the court hearing with the attempted assault on a federal agent with a pistol.
Mr Hinckley, who was dressed in a navy-blue shirt and trousers, answered: "Yes, sir" when asked whether he understood the charges being made against him. The charges were read by Mr Arthur Barnett, a United States magistrate, who turned down a request for bail and fixed a formal arraignment hearing for Thursday.
During the 45-minute hearing, the defendant sat with his head propped in his hands and showed no sign of emotion. Two lawyers, appointed by the court to handle his defence,

tried unsuccessfully to have reporters banned from the court during the hearing. One said later that they wanted to avoid publicity if possible.
Mr William Webster, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said during the hearing that Mr Hinckley was still in his agency's custody and would be held in a safe place until he could be examined by a psychiatrist.
A policeman, who saw Mr Hinckley arrive at police headquarters in Washington soon after the shooting yesterday, said that he looked dazed, "like he didn't know what was happening to him". When he came out of the police building later, however, he "looked really scared, like he knew".

Murray rise: The annual pay of the general secretary of the TUC is to rise by £3,700 to about £22,300.
London University: Professor Randolph Quirk has been offered the post of vice-chancellor, succeeding Lord Annan.
Israel: Mr Begin's coalition shows signs of regaining popularity.
Classified advertisements: Appointments, page 25; La crème de la crème, 26; Personal, 25, 28; Residential property, 24, 25.
Sport, pages 12, 13.
Football: League leaders beaten by Leeds; Norman Fox previews League Cup final; Squash: Barrington withdraws from British Open; Cricket: Rain holds up Test match.
Obituary, page 16.
Enid Bagnold, Dai Francis, Colonel Stefan Mayer, Mr DeWitt Wallace.
Business News, pages 17-23.
Stock Markets: Equities recovered from a nervous start following the assassination attempt on President Reagan. Glits showed rises of about 1% in a thin market. The FT Index rose 9.3 to 528.1.
Business features: Robin Young examines the call for public access to official information; Ross Davies's Business Diary.

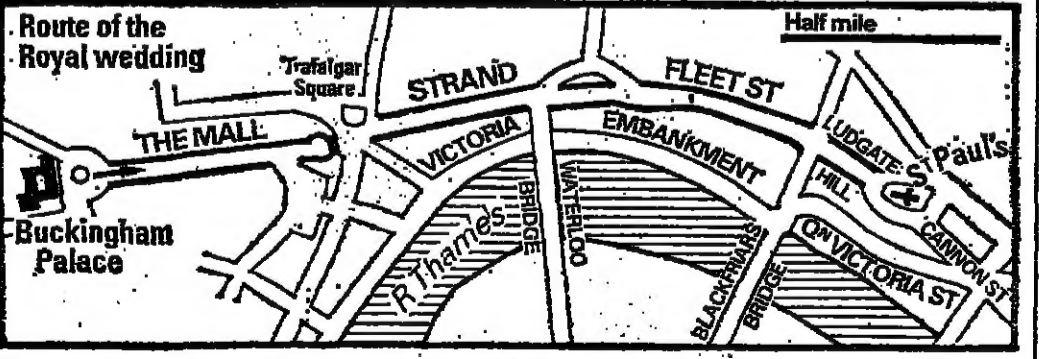
Polish union calls off strike move

The Solidarity trade union in Poland has tonight decided to call off a strike against the government. The decision came at the end of a long and at times contentious meeting in Gdansk, canwhile, the two deputy vernors of Solidarity province where Solidarity members were last week beaten up by police, had their resignations accepted. Page 6

Tear gas halts farm protest

Thousands of angry farmers, mainly from France and Italy, who were besieging the headquarters of the EEC's Council of Ministers in Brussels in support of their demands for higher Community farm prices, were dispersed by riot police using tear gas. Earlier, Mr Gerrit Braks, the Dutch chairman of the council, said that the ministerial talks on new prices might be called off if the violence continued. Page 6

Leaders, page 15.
Letters: On monetarism, from Mr R. G. Orie, and others; equal opportunities, from Mrs Michael Foot, and others.
Leading articles: The Reagan shooting; Public records.
Arts, page 11.
John Higgins on Massenet's *Cendrillon* in Paris; Irving Wardle on *I'm Getting My Act Together* and *Taking it on the Road*; Michael Ratcliffe and Michael Church on last night's television; William Mann on the LSO Mussorgsky concert broadcast from the Festival Hall.
Features, pages 10, 14.
American self-examination after the Reagan shooting; Bernard Levin's vager; Alan Hamilton's London Diary.



The route the royal wedding procession will take from the Palace to St Paul's Cathedral.

Prince of Wales will have his brothers as 'best men' at the royal wedding

By John Witherow
The Prince of Wales's two brothers, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward, will act as his "supporters", or best men at the wedding with Lady Diana Spencer on July 29.
Buckingham Palace, announcing the first details of the pageantry that will accompany the wedding at St Paul's Cathedral, said this followed the practice at previous royal weddings.
Prince Andrew, aged 21, who is midshipman in the Royal Navy, will hand over the wedding ring, and Prince Edward, aged 19, will stand beside the royal couple.
It was announced last night that the wedding ring will be made from a newly struck vein of gold from the Welsh mountains, by Alan Morgan Thomas, a firm of goldsmiths in Powys. No details have yet been

announced concerning Lady Diana's bridesmaids, but the palace said she would be given away by her father, Lord Spencer, who will travel with her to St Paul's.
The Queen and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother each had eight bridesmaids at their weddings. Princess Anne, however, had only Prince Edward and Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones.
There will be four carriage processions following a route from Buckingham Palace along the Mall, through Trafalgar Square, along the Strand, Fleet Street and up Ludgate Hill to St Paul's.
Flags will be flown in the Mall and from Admiralty Arch and members of all three Services will line the route and be represented on the cathedral steps.
At 11 am the processions will

arrive for the wedding, which is expected to last about an hour. They will return by the same route.
The first procession will be for members of the Royal Family and will be accompanied by a captain's escort of the Household Cavalry. The Queen will follow with a Sovereign's escort of the Household Cavalry, then the Prince of Wales, dressed in full naval uniform, will arrive with a Prince of Wales' escort of the Household Cavalry.
The fourth procession will be for Lady Diana and will leave either from Buckingham Palace or Clarence House, accompanied by a mounted police escort.
The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, will officiate at the service, assisted by the Dean of St Paul's, the Very Rev Alan Webster.

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enkins offer Liberals

Mr Roy Jenkins, a joint-leader of the Social Democrats, has offered the Liberals "a partnership of principle". Informed talks on achieving an inter-party agreement have begun between the two parties' leaders. Page 2

Writer dies

The writer Enid Bagnold died in London yesterday, aged 91. She gained international fame with the best-seller *National Velvet*. She married Sir Roderick Jones, former head of Reuters news agency, in 1920. Page 16

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Militancy rising among Inland Revenue officers

By Paul Routledge

The Civil Service was hit yesterday by new walkouts at Inland Revenue tax collection offices and naval fuel depots responsible for servicing Nato vessels as the campaign of selective pay strikes intensified.

For the first time since it was established by the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Selwyn Lloyd, in 1952, the work of the National Economic Development Council ("Neddy"), which brings together government, employers and unions, will be disrupted by industrial action today.

After intensive behind-the-scenes pressure, TUC staff and trade union leaders have decided that they will not cross picket lines outside the Millbank Tower offices where the NEDC meets, and the talks will be confined to ministers, industrialists and four independent members. Journalists are being asked to "black" the press briefings afterwards.

Of more immediate concern to the Treasury than discussions on NEDC agenda items, such as energy prices and unemployment, is the rising militancy in the Inland Revenue.

Forty officers were called out on indefinite strike yesterday, and 20 in London (North) yesterday. Others are likely to follow as senior members of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation refuse to work normally handed at TUC talks at Shipley and Cumberland.

Mr Tony Christopher, general secretary of the IRSE, said last night: "We are very encouraged by this response not just from junior grades but also from quite senior management officers. But it is not unexpected. To ask one taxation officer to suspend another collection member is rather like asking a member of the Brigade of Guards to 'arrest the Queen'."

He was referring to the action

of six of the 15 regional principal collection officers who have been called out on strike for refusing to serve suspension orders on their juniors for refusing to carry out the work normally done by those already on strike.

The Council of the Civil Service Union said that more than 10,000 Inland Revenue and other Civil Service staff walked out for half-day stoppages in Liverpool, Manchester, Leicester and Cardiff, in protest at the growing list of suspensions.

The Customs and Excise Department gave warning last night that 29 Manchester-based clerical and executive staff responsible for the collection of betting revenue from off-course bookmakers in England and Wales would be suspended from 3 pm today "if they continue to refuse to carry out their normal duties". If past practice is followed, they will be called out on strike.

In the Ministry of Defence, where things have been relatively quiet, 24 technicians at the Nato refuelling bases of Old Kilpatrick, Campbeltown, Loch Ewe, Loch Striven, Rosyth, Invergordon and Faslane, Scotland, were brought out on indefinite strike. A further 30 computer staff at the Customs and Excise computer in South-east were brought into the stoppage there.

On the date on which new salaries should take effect for 530,000 white-collar civil servants, and about 150 rallies will be held in London and provincial centres. Many half-day strikes are also expected.

The Confederation of British Industry said last night that it regretted the unions' decision not to cross the Civil Service picket lines to attend tomorrow's NEDC meeting.

The CBI believed it was vitally important to resolve the discrepancy between what manufacturers on the Continent and what manufacturers in Britain paid for bulk energy supplies.

TUC chief to get 19.5% pay rise

By Our Labour Editor

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, is to have a salary increase three times that laid down by the Government for its employees. It will take his annual earnings to about £22,300.

In a discreetly-implemented package of salary increases for about 100 staff at Congress House, the London headquarters of the trade union movement, yearly wages will rise by about 19 per cent from today.

Mr Murray's pay rises by £3,700 a year from £18,600, in order to retain his differential over TUC heads of department covering international, economic, organizational and press affairs. They are now expected to get about £16,000 a year from April.

These increases come at a time of falling membership among the TUC's 120 affiliated unions and a cash crisis developing from a £300,000 reduction in subscription revenue this year. Membership of the TUC is expected to fall by at least 500,000 because of the economic recession that has affected individual unions.

TUC leaders are bracing themselves for a further drop in union membership in 1982 as the recession bites deeper and their own forecasts of more than three million jobless become a reality.

But Congress House staff insist that while the overall level of employment in the United Kingdom is falling, the number of workers employed in the trade union industry is still rising. Workers are still turning to unions as a form of defence.

Congress House staff yesterday declined to comment on the salary increases, which come at the end of a comparability exercise intended to lift TUC salaries up to those paid for similar jobs in the Civil Service and elsewhere. The comparability elements now said to be "spent".



Dr Marino Chiavelli and his £820,000 Renoir: "I think this is the best."

£820,000 Renoir buyer breaks cover

By Geraldine Norman

Sole Room Correspondent

"I already have four Renoirs, but I think this is the best," said Dr Marino Chiavelli, modestly as he gazed on a delicious young bathing girl for which he paid the world record auction price of £820,000 at Christie's on Monday night.

Dr Chiavelli has been mystifying the art world for some weeks with his lavish purchases, which, hitherto, have been cloaked in secrecy. Yesterday he broke cover and talked about the mansions in London and Johannesburg that he is busy filling with treasures.

In Johannesburg he has a 48-room Victorian villa and surrounding park called Summerplace. "It is one of the finest houses in South Africa," he points out, looking at the modesty. When Sotheby's offered the collection of the late E. J. A. Loerinc for sale in Johannesburg on March 10 he bought half the auction,

spending £137,143 on 51 lots. His ambition is to furnish the house mainly in period with its construction, that is with nineteenth-century treasures.

In London he has bought a fine eighteenth-century mansion, Selwood House in Gloucestershire. It has a mere 18 rooms, but, he says, there are also three more houses for his dependants.

The London home is to be furnished with the best French eighteenth-century furniture of the Louis XV and Louis XVI periods. At Christie's sale of French furniture on March 26 he spent £168,450 on 25 lots of fine furniture and works of art.

Pictures, of course, come more expensive. At Christie's on Monday night his total outlay was £126,000, for which he secured seven paintings. (None of these auction figures include the 10 per cent buyers' premium that he will also have to pay.)

The Renoir was his most expensive purchase but he also bought five works by Dali from the Edward James collection. Those are intended for his London home. "With French eighteenth-century furniture, I think you need a few Surrealists," he commented. That, of course, was also Mr James' opinion; his Wimpole Street home for which the paintings were commissioned was filled with French furniture.

Today Dr Chiavelli has his eyes on two more Renoirs coming up for sale at Sotheby's, and he would not be averse to adding a particularly fine Monet. "But who knows," he shrugs.

He leaves London tonight. "I have to go to Switzerland," he says, "but I will be back in Africa." A gesture with his left hand allows a large diamond on his small finger to glitter enticingly.

But Renoir is his chief love. "His work is in the *penultima della primavera* (the 'brash stroke of spring'), would you not agree?" he says with a smile.

The money that allows him to enjoy such springtime indulgences is based in the construction and crude oil businesses. "I do not like to talk about my businesses," he says, while admitting to owning around the world some 10 or 12 companies. No, he would not wish to name them. "I am a very private man," he says.

He comes originally from Modena in north Italy where he remains the chairman of Forastal Import-Export, a company dealing mainly in petroleum. "But I have finished with my interests in Italy," he says. "I do not wish to go back there." The base of his business operations is now South Africa.

No rules bent for new bishop, Dr Runcie says

By Clifford Longley

Religious affairs correspondent

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, indicated yesterday that there had been no departure from agreed procedure in the nomination of Dr Graham Leonard to be Bishop of London.

He issued a statement through his press officer saying: "Questions have been raised about the appointment of the new Bishop of London. The Archbishop of Canterbury wishes it to be known that the procedures agreed between church and state since 1976 were followed in every detail on this occasion."

His comment follows the disclosure yesterday that Dr Leonard was not the first choice put to the Prime Minister, and that a considerable struggle developed at the highest levels of church and state before the Queen endorsed the selection of Dr Leonard.

Dr Runcie's statement was followed by a statement from the Prime Minister's office, saying that the 1976 procedures had been meticulously followed at all stages, and any suggestion that the process was wholly without foundation.

The procedure was laid down in a parliamentary answer given by Mr James Callaghan, then Prime Minister, in June 1976, after long negotiations with the Church of England leaders. It stated that prime ministers would retain an element of discretion in the advice they gave to the Crown.

Dr Leonard's inclusion on the list of two names meant, however, that the Prime Minister was within the terms of the 1976 agreement in selecting him instead of Dr Habgood. Critics of the Prime Minister's decision were maintaining yesterday that she should not have gone against the majority decision of the Crown Appointments Commission, particularly as it was said to have been influenced by lobbying.

Those defending Leonard's appointment pointed out that the Commission's advice was against the weight of opinion in the diocese of London. The vacancy in the diocese was the subject of a committee of the House of Lords, which is responsible for identifying and expressing that opinion. The committee found 70 per cent in favour of Dr Leonard.

Mr Robert Edwards, vicar of the diocese, said he thought Dr Runcie had been personally in favour of Dr Leonard because he was a friend. Dr Leonard's name has also been put forward by the Chapter of St Paul's, London. Informed opinion yesterday was that there would be a majority in his favour.

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the past, that the Prime Minister would forward the preference name to the Queen. When reached by Dr Leonard's supporters, they embarked on a campaign of lobbying on his behalf.

They were helped by the fact that Dr Habgood's name has not received two-thirds majority support in the commission, which is normally required.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, chairman of the commission, was responsible for communicating his advice to the Prime Minister, and felt justified in showing which way his preference lay.

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Diary, page 1

Dr Leonard's inclusion on the list of two names meant, however, that the Prime Minister was within the terms of the 1976 agreement in selecting him instead of Dr Habgood. Critics of the Prime Minister's decision were maintaining yesterday that she should not have gone against the majority decision of the Crown Appointments Commission, particularly as it was said to have been influenced by lobbying.

Those defending Leonard's appointment pointed out that the Commission's advice was against the weight of opinion in the diocese of London. The vacancy in the diocese was the subject of a committee of the House of Lords, which is responsible for identifying and expressing that opinion. The committee found 70 per cent in favour of Dr Leonard.

Diary, page 1

Labour MPs leap to aid of 'under-paid' civil servants

By Hugh Noyes

Parliamentary Correspondent

Westminster

There was a time not so many months ago, or to be more precise, any time before the last general election, when red-blooded militants in the Labour Party would have gladly suffered eternal torment on the rack rather than show any brotherly feelings towards a civil servant.

Nowadays, as recent encounters with the Prime Minister in the Commons have shown, civil servants are well on their way to that great Duke of Edinburgh sky, there to be deified alongside the miners, dockers, steelworkers and other horny-handed sons of the soil.

Any casual observer of the political scene knows full well that the switch from government to opposition can have a traumatic effect on an MP's attitude on a whole range of issues. But it is still a little unnerving to witness such stalwart scourges of the establishment as Mr Dennis Skinner, Mr Robert Cryer or Mr Dennis Canavan, Labour MPs respectively for Bolsover, Keighley and Stirlingshire, West, leaping eagerly to the defence of their bowler-hatted and pin-striped comrades in the civil service unions.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher had scarcely reached the dispatch box yesterday when once again it seemed that the old central policy of the Labour Party was to preserve intact every last member of the Civil Service, their pens immortalized in wax and their memoranda forever mounting.

Mr Skinner, of course, was the first to leap into action with a tirade so lengthy and so involved that it brought down upon him the wrath of Mr George Thomas, the Speaker.

Mr Skinner, no stranger to the wrath of Speakers, was particularly incensed by the Prime Minister's regret that the civil service picket line would not be represented at today's meeting of the National Economic Development Council because of a Civil Service picket line. She told the House that the meeting would go ahead without TUC leaders, but that there were important matters on the agenda.

Mr Skinner, who is a miners' MP, rounded on the Prime Minister with as much vigour as if she had announced the closure tomorrow of every colliery in the country. Did Mr Thatcher realize, he thundered, that half the civil servants got less than the average wage and that many were below the poverty wage line.

He said that the civil service was a waste of time, and that it was unfair and unreasonable to expect anyone to discover civilized behaviour by some process of trial and error. Instincts for love and compassion may develop without encouragement, but then greed, selfishness and aggression will have a chance to influence behaviour.

The Duke, patron of the two-day conference, said: "If we could revive someone who had lived through Europe's Dark Ages, he would find the crime and the vandalism and the aggression and the terrorism and the drug addiction all too familiar."

"He would know that, just as in his day, they stemmed from the same motives of greed, envy, selfishness, and hate."

The main difficulty for the conference was to match the "right emotions" in the hearts of many millions of people to modern needs. "Unless young people can be given a positive motive to behave with tolerance and consideration, academic education is a waste of time," he said.

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All that the Civil Service was asking for was that this twaddling, rotten Government should carry out its mandate to allow free, collective wage bargaining. Mr Skinner was clearly prepared to carry on in this vein for some considerable time and Labour MPs, carried away by the picture of down-swept and out-of-control public servants, undernourished and under-paid, were already drawing their handkerchiefs from their pockets.

But at that point the Speaker had had enough and told him sharply to bring his question to an end. Mr Skinner eventually sat down but continued to mutter loudly as Mrs Thatcher attempted to reply.

Mrs Thatcher, who does not normally have difficulty in making herself heard, finally got it over to the House that in the past two years civil servants had received pay increases totalling 50 per cent. They were now being offered 7 per cent more and the Prime Minister considered that those were levels of pay that many in the private sector would like to have received.

Not the sort of increases that would leave the civil servants on the breadline.

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NUJ votes for print union merger talks

From Donald MacIntyre

Labour Reporter, Norwich

The prospect of a merger between the National Graphical Association and the National Union of Journalists was brought closer last night when the journalists' annual conference approved formal talks between the two unions.

Delegates endorsed a resolution backing merger discussions with the print industry's main craft union with the aim of a united front to next year's conference followed by a ballot of the whole membership.

NUJ leaders, who held preliminary talks with the NGA in Newcastle last month, won backing for formal negotiations despite strong opposition to an eventual merger from broadcast and print union members.

A move to remit the clause formally endorsing the negotiations made by delegates who wanted fuller debate within the union before negotiations started was defeated by 155 votes to 136.

Mr Kenneth Ashton, general

secretary of the NUJ, said that the union had worked hard to reach an agreement on new technology with the NGA. "I do not know how long we will be able to keep that agreement safe from attacks from employers without amalgamation," he told delegates.

But Mr Giles Smith, a London television delegate, said that a merger with the NGA would mean the end of the union in broadcasting, and the union's 3,000 broadcasting members would have to leave.

"Make no mistake, they cannot and will not accept it," Mr David Seymour, of the union's Central London branch, said that if the union was serious about a merger delegates had to consult members before going any further.

Journalists' strike: The NUJ yesterday called an official strike of its 120 members in the Heart of England newspaper group in protest at the company's closure of the *Camden Journal*, a north London weekly.

Dispute over custody of missing girl

From Our Correspondent

Exeter

Genette Tate, the schoolgirl who disappeared three years ago, was the centre of a custody dispute yesterday.

Her father, Mr John Tate, and stepmother, Mrs Violet Tate, went before a judge in Exeter after Mr Tate was granted a decree nisi at Exeter County Court on the ground of Mr Tate's adultery. Both sought custody of the child.

Judge Paul Clarke ruled that it would be impractical to make a custody order while the girl was still missing, but he confirmed a ruling made in favour of Mr Tate at the time of his divorce from Genette's mother, Sheila, in 1975.

Mr Tate said afterwards: "Should she be found alive, I shall make application to make her to the court by Violet, Sheila and myself. But initially, if Genette were to be found today, I would have legal custody."

How work experience aids school studies

By Our Education

Correspondent

First-hand experience of industry and commerce helps pupils' motivation and enables them to see more clearly the value of their school studies, according to a report by the Schools Inspectorate, published yesterday.

The report gives 12 examples of ways in which schools can prepare pupils for working life through work experience, visits and subject-related studies.

The pupils involved spoke of a number of skills and abilities that they felt had been strengthened as a result of their experiences, including ability to communicate through oral, written, numerical, and graphical means; to follow instructions; to work as a member of a team; to exercise patience and persistence; and to take responsibility.

Few of the schools concerned had achieved success without additional resources of time, additional resources, the report says. However, a foreword emphasizes: "Nothing said (in the report) is to be construed as implying Government commitment to the provision of additional resources."

Schools and working life: some initiatives (Department of Education and Science, Stationery Office, £2.50).

MP calls for alcohol warnings on bottles

By a Staff Reporter

Safety warnings on bottles

drink, index-linking of the co of alcohol and an end to d pharmaceuticals' trail outle for alcoholic drinks were call yesterday by Sir Bernard Braine, Conservative MP for Essex South-east and chairman of the National Council of Alcoholism.

"Q: Is seven young men in Britain drinks at a level which will damage his health, Sir Bernard said, and one in 17 men in all age groups drink enough to face the same risk."

A Conservative estimate of the cost to the nation would be £1,000,000. Sir Bernard was speaking at the launch of an alcohol information week in Manchester.

In the past decade, alcohol consumption per head has risen by more than one-third. In 1970, the average man consumed 10 pints of alcohol a week. In 1979, it was 13 pints. The report says that the incidence of liver disease has risen by 23 per cent, drink-driving offences by 28 per cent, death from cirrhosis of the liver by 22 per cent and admissions to hospital for alcoholism have risen by a half.

The pressure on health services was "enormous". The drink industry spent about £53m on advertising in 1979-80, while about £200,000 was spent on government health education.

World today like Dark Ages, Duke says

Crime, aggression and terrorism in the world today would be familiar to someone from the Dark Ages, the Duke of Edinburgh said in London yesterday.

He was opening the first International Conference on Human Value, at which the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, called on everyone present to pray for President Ronald Reagan and his family and aides.

The Duke, patron of the two-day conference, said: "If we could revive someone who had lived through Europe's Dark Ages, he would find the crime and the vandalism and the aggression and the terrorism and the drug addiction all too familiar."

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Mobility scheme for people who need to switch districts

A scheme is launched today to help tenants throughout England and Wales who want to move to a different region or work or social reasons.

The National Mobility scheme will be open to tenants and people high on waiting lists of all local authorities, new owners and housing associations but cooperative. But anyone with a pressing need for a new start will be eligible.

Each local authority and new town will offer a given number of lettings each year or people within the same county who simply need to switch districts.

Each authority will also make available 1 per cent of its annual lettings for people needing to move in from outside the county. Further lettings on offer will depend on how many people are rehoused by authorities in other parts of the country.

To qualify, applicants must be permanent work outside reasonable daily travelling distance from home, or have moved on social grounds.

The elderly, handicapped or single-parent families, needing to move nearer to relatives or friends, might benefit.

Mr John Stanley, Minister for Housing and Construction, said London yesterday that it could not be possible for every tenant in every town to move wherever they liked. But he

believed the scheme would make a material improvement in existing arrangements that were "unsatisfactory and inflexible".

The scheme was warmly welcomed by district and metropolitan authorities. Mr John Morgan, housing chairman of the Association of District Councils, said almost half its 333 member-authorities would cooperate.

Mr John Mills, housing chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said: "This will help authorities cut through red tape and get to the heart of the matter."

Mr Simon Randall, chairman of the housing and works committee of the London Boroughs Association, which has helped more than 3,000 households in its own scheme since 1978, said: "At present, it is very difficult for a council tenant to move from one area to another."

"It is in effect a change of landlord. This will make moving around the country easier."

The National Mobility Office will be run by the new scheme's director, Mr Ben Affleck, formerly housing director for Milton Keynes Development Corporation.

Mr Stanley said the office will be met initially by the Department of the Environment under new powers provided in the Housing Act.

Welsh councils warned of housing decline

From Tim Jones

Local authorities in Wales have been told by Plaid Cymru that their adherence to government financial targets is causing the housing stock to deteriorate to a point where much of it will become irreparable.

The party says in a letter to the Welsh housing funding is in a dangerous spiral of decline. It urges the authorities to base housing investment programmes on the needs of each area, not on the guidelines for financial realism.

Mr Dafydd Elis Thomas, Plaid Cymru MP for Merioneth, said: "If the authorities continue to make unrealistic bids unrelated to the real housing conditions of the area, the Treasury will never be presented with a demand for resources that relates to the real needs of the people."

He added: "We regard the fact that the number of public sector housing starts in Wales in 1980 was the lowest since the winter of 1935-36 and the massive spending cut from £225m in 1979-80 to £100m in 1983-84 as the greatest disaster affecting the people of Wales, equalled only by the rate of unemployment."

Mr Thomas said that the figures were based on the Welsh housing investment programme. They had been confidential until this year, and were not generally available because they had been placed only in the House of Commons library.

The party's criticism of local authorities was supported in a recent Shelter report which stated that Wales has much worse housing conditions than England. In some of the industrial valleys, it said, 40 out of every 100 homes were unfit to live in.

Cult's 'love-bomb' that was better than a gun

By Marcel Berlins

The battle for the minds of the jury took nearly six months, far longer than it usually took the Moonies to recruit their vulnerable victims into membership of the cult. The jury were hattered by more than 100 witnesses, three-quarters of them on the Moonies' side, and emerged yesterday with a unanimous verdict that allegations in an article in the *Daily Mail* on May 29, 1978, that the Moonies broke up families, brainwashed young people and set children against their parents, were true.

The jury was told how the Moonies drew their recruits mainly from young, reasonably intelligent, middle-class people. In the United States they would befriend young tourists alone or in pairs, hitch-hiking or university campuses.

They would invite them back to their farm or house, where everyone would be attentive, affectionate and flattering. They would join in all the activities, and so gradually be weaned into a Moonie existence. One of the techniques used was "love-bombing" and "hugging," a technique denied by the Moonies.

According to counsel for the defence, Lord Rawlinson, QC, the recruits' involvement would gradually take on a more doctrinal pattern, and they would be taught Moonie beliefs. One of the tenets of the cult was that sins had to be paid for, "indemnified". For instance, the Jews who had died in the concentration camps were paying indemnity for Christ's Crucifixion. The only way to be saved was to become a Moonie, and to reject the "satanic" world outside, including one's family.

The *Daily Mail* called several former Moonies, some of whom had reached high positions in the cult, to describe recruiting and mind-controlling techniques used.

One witness gave evidence that violence in the form of beatings up played a part in the process. Many told of being denied sleep and always having to be with other Moonies, never alone.

Dramatic evidence was given by Miss Christine Dixon, aged 29, from Manchester, who had attended a one-week course near Reading. She was told that because of her sin in bearing a child while unmarried, the child had to be taken away from her and placed in a Moonie school away from the "satanic" world.



The Rev Sun Myung Moon, head of the cult.

When she returned home after the course, she became so disturbed that she locked herself in the bathroom with her daughter, Beth, ran the bath, and put Beth in it. "I asked Beth to lie down and die," she said. Her parents saved the child by breaking down the door. Two hours earlier, she had tried to set fire to her father with a cigarette lighter. "I thought he was evil and satanic. It was to cleanse him."

The effect of the cult on families was vividly illustrated by Mr Lawrence Fisher, of Morley, West Yorkshire, who told of how his wife went to the United States in an unsuccessful attempt to persuade

their Moonie son, Kevin, to come home. "When she returned, her health deteriorated rapidly. She died of a broken heart," he said. Kevin refused to come back to see her even when she was dying.

Mr Orme called evidence of the continuing close relationship between parents and the Moonie children while other Moonie witnesses denied that parents were allowed to see their children only under closely controlled conditions.

Mr Roy Faiers, a publisher, of Cheltenham, told the jury that his son Martin, a former Moonie, had once predicted that if his father wrote anything against the cult, the father would die within 40 days. Subsequently, Mr Faiers staged a commando-style operation to get his son back. Martin was now involved in rehabilitating other former Moonies.

Other said parents gave evidence of finding their children like automatons, with glazed eyes ("the thousand-mile stare") completely insensitive to their parents' distress, and lacking any ability to think for themselves.

Some parents, luckier than others, told how they managed to "sidestep" or in some other way induce back their children, and "deprogramme" them from the Moonie doctrine. That deprogramming process was the subject of bitter denunciation from Mr Dennis Orme, the plaintiff, who is head of the Unification Church in Britain.



Mr Roy Faiers and his wife Dorothy (above) whose son was a Moonie, after the verdict. Mr Alec Fyvie and his wife Ann (below) also gave evidence against the Moonies.



Mr Dennis Orme yesterday: "Distortion by the media."

That was followed by the stage during which past identities were punished and the new identity rewarded. Finally the old self died and the Moonie was born.

The Moonies' expert had denied that brainwashing had taken place. His experience was that there could be no brainwashing without physical coercion.

From the first day, it had been clear that the jury's verdict would turn on the credibility of the witnesses called by the two sides. Which version of the Moonies' activities would they believe? Mr Orme gave lengthy evidence himself and called a procession of witnesses. He claimed that the Unification Church was a harmless religious organization, providing solace and a sense of belonging to thousands of people in spiritual need.

He blamed dishonest distortion by the media for the sinister image that the Moonies had acquired. Many of his witnesses described how happy and contented they had become since joining the Moonies. Some of their parents attested to the improvement in their children. One of the Moonies' witnesses was Judy Salter, on whom half of the *Daily Mail* article was based. She had, after that, rejoined the Moonies.

The jury's verdict, and the riders attached, showed what the jury thought of those claims.

Longest libel case changes law

By Our Legal Correspondent

As a direct result of the Moonies case, the law is to be changed to ensure that no libel jury will have to sit for so long again.

It was the longest and the costliest libel action in English legal history. It spanned nearly six months and occupied exactly 100 working jury days. Several more days were taken up by peripheral issues, involving costs and other matters. The jury listened to more than 120 witnesses.

At various stages during the case, Mr Justice Cynon made clear his dissatisfaction that a jury should have to spend so

long listening to a case. He was particularly angry at the wrong estimate made by the lawyers on both sides, who had said that it would take seven or eight weeks.

An amendment has recently been made to section 68 of the Supreme Court Bill, which is going through the Lords.

The section deals with civil actions that can be tried with a jury. Before the amendment, it allowed a court to refuse trial by jury for libel if the case involved the need for prolonged examination of documents or accounts, or making a scientific investigation.

The amendment, agreed at the Bill's committee stage, will

also give a court discretion to refuse trial by jury if "the probable length of the trial makes the action one which cannot conveniently be tried with a jury".

The whole case will cost the Moonies more than £500,000 and perhaps as much as £750,000. During the course of the trial, they were ordered to deposit a total of £215,000 as security for costs in the event of their losing and having to pay the *Daily Mail's* costs, which they have been ordered to do.

The final figure they will have to pay the *Daily Mail* will exceed that, and, of course, they will have to pay their own costs.

Report says MI5 and MI6 papers could eventually be made public

Reform of system for releasing secrets urged

By Peter Hennessy

The Government is urged in a report published yesterday to reshape the new life into its system of preserving, classifying and releasing secret files to ensure that the raw material of history is not shredded and lost as few documents as possible are withheld for more than 30 years.

The report also discloses that highly sensitive papers held in the registries of the Secret Intelligence Service, MI6, and the Security Service, MI5, previously regarded as material to be retained forever, could come public after 75 or 100 years should future governments so decide. MI5 was founded in 1909 and MI6 in 1911.

In its report to Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, the Public Access Committee, under Sir Duncan Wilson, a former ambassador to Moscow, who retired last year as Master of Corpus Christi College, is cutting in its condemnation of the accumulation of Home, Wilson, each, Callaghan and Thatcher administrations for failing to implement properly the sound system for handling departmental information promulgated in the Public Records Act, 1958.

Sir Duncan and his colleagues, Professor Margaret Waine, of Oxford University, the official historian of the British atomic energy programme, and Sir Paul Osmond, former secretary to the Church Commissioners, hold up the adequacy of Whitehall's performance on public records

policy over the past 23 years as "a sobering commentary on the ability of government to implement administrative reforms wholeheartedly and embodied in legislation".

Lord Hailsham welcomed the report as likely to make a "major contribution to the development of policy". He noted its 61 recommendations and asked for comments to be submitted to him in the next three months.

The impression in Whitehall yesterday was that the Government is in no hurry to act on the report. An elaborate process of interdepartmental consultation is in prospect, with hints that the present economic climate will militate against any extra manpower or money being devoted to the care of the nation's archive.

The report, however, says its findings, if acted upon, would involve only "modest increases" to the cost of the Whitehall records system which, in 1979-80, amounted to £11.7m.

The chief aim of the Wilson committee is to rescue public records policy from what a former Secretary of the Cabinet described as an "unsupervised backwater". To achieve that, the Lord Chancellor, as minister for public records, must play a much more active part in exercising real ministerial responsibility, with more vigorous participation and interest from secretaries of state, permanent secretaries and establishment officers.

The Keeper of the Public

Records Office, the report suggests, should, in close concert with the Lord Chancellor's Department, take a more assertive line in ensuring that departmental records work comes up to standard. His team of eight inspectors, which, between them, have to supervise 200 departments and public bodies, should have their status examined and their number increased by six.

To ensure that important files are not lost or shredded, "sector panels", modelled on an existing Ministry of Defence body, which contains historians from outside Whitehall, should be brought in to advise departments on what needed to be preserved and on the changing demands of the public and the academic profession.

The Lord Chancellor's Advisory Council on Public Records, the main watchdog body, should also be strengthened. To protect the public interest, some of its members should be allowed to examine papers withheld for longer than 30 years on grounds of security or personal sensitivity to ensure that departments are not being overcautious.

Sir Duncan said yesterday he wanted the Government to act on the report as soon as it could. He was keen for the Commons select committee on could. He was keen for the home affairs to take up the matter of public records reform and to monitor progress.

At present, all aspects of the Lord Chancellor's Department are immune from scrutiny by

parliamentary committees.

Picking out the most important findings, Sir Duncan added: "If departments really got down to a system of sector panels a great deal would stem from that. Real ministerial responsibility is important and also more comprehensive advice for the advisory council which cannot do without much more information on what is withheld under sections of 3(4) and 5(1) of the Public Records Act."

In addition to its disclosure about the preservation and possible eventual release of MI5 and MI6 papers, the report reveals that the actual longhand notes taken around the Cabinet table by the Secretary of the Cabinet have been kept since 1946. Should they be published, said the Wilson committee recommends the matter be considered in 1996, it will be possible to discover in detail who said what in a way that cannot be derived from the dry, printed record released after 30 years.

The report describes how the public records system could be developed should future governments move towards freedom of information. It urges that material released under Whitehall's existing open government policy, enshrined in the Crampton directive, should be collected centrally at the Public Record Office in Kew.

Modern Public Records, Selection and Access. Report of a committee appointed by the Lord Chancellor. (Stationery Office, £8.10).

Leading article, page 15

Naval lieutenant all down drunk at party

From Our Correspondent

A court martial at Portsmouth was told yesterday that a naval lieutenant had fallen to the floor during an evening reception for officers of the submarine HMS Otrus, run by Tayside council, Dundee.

"He had to be assisted to feet and helped to a chair a lady to whom he had been talking," Lieutenant Commander Norman Green, for the prosecution, said. The court was told that Lieutenant Davies, 39, of Portsmouth, had been in the most of the day.

"He first went with other officers to a lunch given by the defence port authority. He had links beforehand and wine during the meal. Towards the end of the meal his condition deteriorated and his manner changed, he became rowdy and lifted his position at the table." He had more drinks before going on to the dinner.

Lieutenant Davies, who limited being drunk, was severely reprimanded. He said: "I was deeply sorry."

BBC TV planning all-day service on one channel

By Kenneth Gosling

A full all-day service of general television programmes on one channel, probably BBC1, is being planned as part of the corporation's strategy.

Before that happens BBC2 is likely to begin its own programmes at about 4 pm, coinciding with the start of the children's schedules on BBC1.

The extent to which the plans can be implemented will depend greatly on the size of the next licence fee increase, how long it will last, and the rate of inflation. However, the new pattern for BBC2, which is expected to incorporate repeats of its best programmes, should be under way by next winter.

The BBC is halfway through an intensive campaign to persuade the public and the Government that its programmes represent value for money and will do so even if a colour licence cost £50: the case for that £16 increase will be presented to the Government in the autumn.

Mr Brian Wenham, controller, BBC2, anxious to dispel the assumption that no one takes

much interest in television in summer, has given me a preview of what he calls "new departures"—original material that will be screened on the channel from May onwards.

There will, for example, be a seven-part series with Richard Leakey, called *The Making of Man*, falling somewhere between *Life on Earth* and *The Ascent of Man*; seven interviews with leading political figures by Robert McKenzie; a series featuring the personal pleasures of Sir Hugh Casson, president of the Royal Academy; documentaries on photography by Lord Snowdon; and a three-part series on General Moshe Dayan.

In the autumn a festival of music will include 10 programmes on Mozart, a Soli weekend, master classes with Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, and Leeds international piano competition.

It is also planned to repeat several award-winning programmes. Mr Wenham rejects accusations that there are too many repeats.

Wives granted Nationality Bill extension

By Geoffrey Browning

The Government yesterday accepted an Opposition amendment to the British Nationality Bill to extend from two to five years the period during which the wives of United Kingdom and Colonies citizens would be entitled to register as British citizens.

Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State, Home Office, surprised the Commons committee considering the Bill by first explaining why the Government had decided on two years, then conceding that it was not based on "absolute principle". He rejected the case for an indefinite right to register.

This Bill was more generous to women because, unlike the case of Commonwealth citizens settled before 1973, there was no five-year residence period. Foreign women who had married British citizens could make up their minds quickly on the issue because they had already "plumped for their husbands".

The amendment was agreed.

How does Harwell technology help sell aero engines in America?

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European judgment on pay helps woman part-time workers

By Lucy Hodges

The Equal Opportunities Commission yesterday claimed to have won a partial victory at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg in a case where a part-time woman worker claimed the same hourly rate of pay as a full-timer.

The commission said it was clear that women part-timers could get equal pay under European law in certain circumstances. "But we cannot tell how many of the 3,765,000 women part-time workers in Britain are going to benefit," it said. The commission had hoped for a broader, more detailed decision and was disappointed that it did not cover all part-time workers.

Yesterday's judgment in the case of Mrs Jeanette Jenkins, a machinist who was paid 51p less an hour than a man doing the same work, says that part-time workers which is less well paid pro rata than full-time work does not on its own contravene the Treaty of Rome.

But where an employer intends to treat women less favourably, that is discrimination under Article 119 of the treaty which says that member states must follow the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.

Employers have to show that the difference between full-time and part-time rates is accounted for by "objectively

justifiable factors" and is not related to discrimination based on sex in order to continue paying the different rates.

The European Court of Justice has made it clear that Article 119 of the Treaty of Rome is applicable directly to all forms of discrimination.

"The judgment leaves a great deal to be worked out in our own tribunals and courts and we think it strengthens our case for the need for remedial legislation to clarify our own laws, particularly those affecting the 40 per cent of women who work part-time," the commission said.

The case of Mrs Jenkins, of Harlow, Essex, was brought against Kingsgate (Clothing Productions) Ltd. It will now return to the Employment Appeal Tribunal in London for it to decide how to interpret what is seen as Luxembourg's delphic judgment.

Mrs Jenkins lost her case at an industrial tribunal and at the appeal tribunal on the grounds that her contract of employment was "materially different" from a full-time man's under the Equal Pay Act and that the difference was not based on sex. English judges have consistently maintained that part-timers cannot claim equal pay under the Equal Pay Act and the commission would like to see that changed.

Pay beds to cost 15.5pc more

By a Staff Reporter

National Health Service charges to private patients for beds and other hospital services are to rise by an average of 15.5 per cent from today to keep them in line with inflation since last April. Mr Patrick Jenkins, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced yesterday.

The increase will take the charge for a private bed in a single room in a London teaching hospital to £111.70p a day, with doctor's fees on top, and to £124.60 for an equivalent bed in a London postgraduate hospital.

Provincial non-teaching hospitals will cost £72.20 or £83 a day, depending on category, for the same facilities.

But BUPA, the private health group, said the retail price index had risen by only 12 per cent since last April. It added: "Our feeling is that, in the London area particularly where charges have gone up 17 to 18 per cent, the rises are somewhat larger than we feel to be justified."

BL rejects Longbridge peace plan

By Clifford Webb

Midland Industrial Confederation (MIDCON) yesterday rejected a peace formula put forward by the leaders of four white-collar unions to end the long dispute over compulsory redundancies at its Longbridge car plant.

They wanted men made redundant to be allowed to work notice periods in the hope that more staff would volunteer to leave or that more vacancies would need filling.

But the company said the deadline had already been extended at the request of the unions and a further extension would only prolong a difficult situation.

"We must complete the last of the 4,250 staff cuts in BL cars by tonight so that we can get on with the job of making and selling cars," the company said.

BL's resolution will be put to the vote today when a group of men who should have ceased work last night present themselves at the factory.

Professor Quirk may head university

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

Professor Randolph Quirk, Quain professor of English language and literature at University College London, has been offered the post of vice-chancellor of London University at what must be the most critical point in the university's 145-year history.

The special appointments committee, chaired by Lord Scarman, which was set up in January by the university's Senate to recommend a successor to Lord Annan, the present vice-chancellor, decided at a confidential meeting on Monday to offer the post to Professor Quirk.

Sir Rex Richards, vice-chancellor of Oxford, and Lord Flowers, Rector of Imperial College, London, were the other two candidates on the final short list.

No announcement is expected to be made for two months. Professor Quirk, who was runner-up to Lord Annan when he was appointed vice-chancellor three years ago, was clearly taken aback that news of the offer had leaked out.

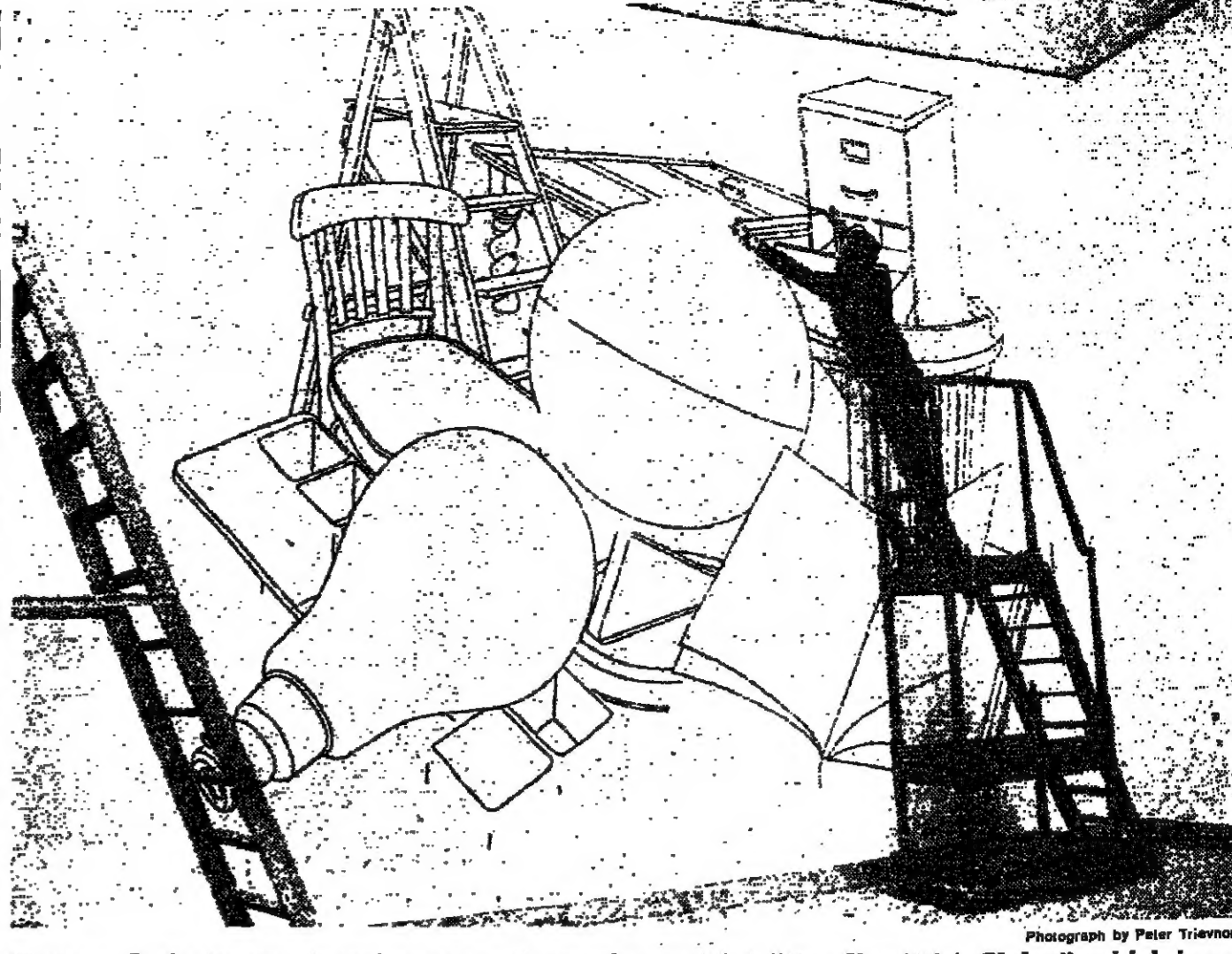
"I am devastated by this (telephone) call. I have not made up my mind whether to accept. It is a very, very serious decision indeed, and it is going to take a great deal of thought on my part," he said.

Professor Quirk, aged 60, is one of the most distinguished, prolific and popular figures in the university. Educated at Douglas High School, Isle of Man, and University College London, he returned to University College after five years in the air force during the war to take up his first post as lecturer in English at the age of 27.

Eleven years later, he was made Professor of English language at Durham University, returning to London in 1960. He was a highly successful chairman of the university's academic committee in the mid-seventies, but has recently kept out of the mainstream of the university's affairs, though he is a member of the controversial Swinburn-Dyer committee.

Membership of this committee, set up by Lord Annan to recommend the best way of securing academic excellence in non-medical studies at the university while carrying out the necessary cuts in spending, would be considered most undesirable if he accepted the vice-chancellorship.

Birmingham appointment: Professor Edward Marsland, vice-principal of Birmingham University, has been appointed vice-chancellor and principal of the university from October 1981, pending the appointment of a permanent successor to Lord Hunter of Newington.



Michael Craig-Martin finishing his wall drawing entitled "Reading With Globe", which is on view at the Tate Gallery. A slide is projected on to a wall and the image outlined with tape.

Government tells eight reluctant London boroughs they must accept transfer of GLC dwellings

By Christopher Warman

Local Government Correspondent

The Government's decision yesterday to order the transfer of Greater London Council housing to eight boroughs reluctant to accept it brought an immediate protest from the Labour opposition at last night's council meeting.

Mr Andrew McIntosh, leader of the opposition, complained that the compulsory transfer "seals the fate of people in the inner boroughs in that it makes it impossible for them to escape from their housing predicament."

He said that the council was required to carry out repairs on the properties, but there was not enough money in the council's housing investment programme to do so.

The protest came after Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced in the House of Commons that he would be making an order under section 23(3) of the London Government Act, 1963, to transfer the council's stock in the eight boroughs on April 1, 1982.

The boroughs are: Brent, Camden, Hackney, Haringey, Hounslow, Lambeth, Lewisham and Waltham Forest.

Mr Heseltine said there had been intensive consultations after the GLC asked him in May, 1980, to order the transfer to the boroughs which were unwilling to accept the transfer of the stock.

The eight boroughs took the issue to the High Court but lost the legal battle to prevent transfer.

Mr Heseltine said: "I am now satisfied that it is right for the housing to be managed at borough level. I also believe that terms can be determined which will not only enable the stock to be assimilated smoothly but will also lead to more effective housing management."

He said the order would take into account the boroughs' views on the GLC's proposals and would impose an obligation on the GLC to bring the property up to an acceptable standard over 10 years.

He added that the need for housing mobility in London had changed considerably. The GLC's mobility scheme for the transferred stock, with the inter-borough nomination scheme, provided an adequate framework for meeting those needs without the necessity of retaining the GLC as a housing management authority.

Mr George Tremaine, leader of the GLC housing policy committee, told the council that in the 1977 election the Conservative Party had pledged to divest itself of housing.

"As of tomorrow," he said, "we have by voluntary agreement transferred 132,000 dwellings to some 46 authorities." In addition, there had been an agreement with Tower Hamlets for a joint management scheme for about 30,000 dwellings. That meant that by voluntary agreement the council had transferred 162,000 of the area's 238,000 dwellings.

After the debate Mr McIntosh emphasized that the Conservatives had sought an assurance from the Government that sufficient funds would be made available to carry out their duty, but had received a "dusty answer". He added that after the local government election in May, assuming that the Labour Party wins, Labour would go to Mr Heseltine to demand adequate resources.

It will cost the GLC an estimated £450m over the next 10 years to bring the dwellings up to the required standard. In addition, the council will pay over the same period an estimated £327m for the maintenance and management of the transferred stock.

Proposals "not adequate": Mr Derek Godfrey, chairman of Camden's housing development committee, said Camden objected to the transfer on financial grounds and on principle (Staff Reporters write).

"It is very clear that a lot of the housing problems in the inner city cannot be resolved in inner London alone," he said. "There will have to be a contribution from the outer London boroughs, and the GLC was a mechanism for doing that in that it did build in outer London and did allow people to move out there. The potential for that is going to be very severely reduced."

The mobility proposals were clearly not adequate. In addition, he said, Camden had largely completed its modernization of its housing stock, but the GLC had only just started

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Communists offer free fares system

By Our Local Government

A cheap flat-fare system leading to free public transport, the development of a strategic housing role and the expansion of the public sector to create jobs are among proposals contained in the Communist Party manifesto for the Greater London Council election on May 7.

The party believes that public transport must be a social service and argues that central government should provide funds to finance it, as in many European cities.

Overall, the party says that central government should provide more money. "Local authorities cannot pay for all their own services, and even if they could there would still be serious inequalities between richer and poorer areas. London as the national capital is obliged in need of national finance for the nationwide services and facilities it provides."

The manifesto bears resemblance in several fields to that of the Labour Party, and states that communists will support many of Labour's proposals.

"But for the working people it has been all too easy to exclude many of those who make up its ranks, trade unionists and tenants, from the systematic exercise of political power."

Labour councillors have become increasingly remote from the needs and wishes of the communities they served, and local government has become dominated by bureaucratic forms and procedures that are used against the working people.

The evidence of this shift seemed to be widespread: in Government moves on the block grant for local authorities, the curriculum, public examinations, teachers' conditions of work, and in other education, the schools inspectorate, which was also under review, and the Schools Council itself.

He was not among those who believed there was a huge conspiracy by Government to centralize the curriculum and control the schools. He doubted whether Westminster had the wish or the capacity to do that. But there was a subtle shift. It was time for the educational empire to "survive back".

Having served as chairman of the Schools Council for more than three years, he could say that it was worth paying attention to the quality of thinking of parents, teachers, and other interested parties to the education system, and to listen to and accommodate each other; when teachers were confronted by politicians, parents by industrialists, school inspectors by trade unionists.

The Schools Council "probably represents the nearest we can get as a nation to a consensus on any particular topic at any particular time, and therefore it has the best chance of acceptance, of being practical and of being capable of change," he said.

He expressed concern at the way the by-products of the Government's expenditure policy were widening the gap between schools in affluent and schools in deprived areas.

Mr Wright told the bench: "You must look at Mr. Waite. His shirt and pullover are soaked in blood. He has a massive injury to his left eye."

Mr Wright, who asked for reports to be lifted, told Sheffield Magistrate's Court that Mr Waite had refused to go to hospital. He wanted the court to see the result of the police action.

Mr Waite, aged 21, of Motehall Road, and Danny Doherty, both of Sheffield, were charged with burglary at a shop in which Mr Waite was also accused of causing bodily harm to Police Constable David Walker and Mr Doherty of wounding Det Constable Anthony Taylor.

Mr Christopher Jackson, for the prosecution, asked for a three-day remand in local custody and said stolen property had been recovered.

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Three top jobs at ministry to be cut

By Hugh Clayton

Agriculture Correspondent

Three of the most senior jobs at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are to be abolished, Mr Peter Walker, the Minister, announced yesterday.

They include that of chief scientist, held since 1977 by Dr Bernard Witte, aged 61. His salary is £24,500 a year.

The cuts have come in a reorganization recommended by a committee of civil servants that was established three months after the Conservatives came into office.

The job of deputy director general of the Government's farm advisory service is also to go. That post is held by Mr Eric Carter, aged 57, at a salary of £22,110. The job of chief administrator of the service now vacant, will also be abolished. The salary is £20,500.

Mr Walker said: "It is a matter of personal regret to me that these changes, which are being made for organizational reasons, should lead to the retirement a little earlier than the case of Bernard Witte and Eric Carter."

The reorganization committee was chaired by Sir Brian Hayes, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry, whose salary is £25,500. It included Dr Keith Dexter, director general of the Farm Advisory Service (salary £24,500).

Dr Dexter's responsibilities will be widened to include some of those of the chief scientist. Other leading scientific staff will, for the first time, be made policy advisers with access to ministers.

Ensuring that the cuts can help give full weight to the immediate and potential implications of research," Mr Walker said. "The changes have announced will help bring scientific expertise more fully to bear on the process of policy formation."

Heads fear shift of power

By Our Education Correspondent

A vigorous defence of the need for a national educational body, such as the Schools Council, to stop the drift towards central control of the education system was mounted yesterday by Mr John Tomlinson, chairman of the council.

The future of the council, which acts as a national forum for the different interests in the educational world, including parents, teachers, and employers, is in question after the Government's decision to set up an independent review of its functions, constitution and methods of work.

Speaking at the annual conference of the Secondary Heads Association in Manchester, Mr Tomlinson said: "Whenever two or three from teachers' associations or schools or local education authorities are gathered together the refrain is the danger of the power shifting dangerously towards the centre."

The evidence of this shift seemed to be widespread: in Government moves on the block grant for local authorities, the curriculum, public examinations, teachers' conditions of work, and in other education, the schools inspectorate, which was also under review, and the Schools Council itself.

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Three top jobs at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are to be cut, Mr Peter Young, the Minister, has announced. The jobs to be cut are those of the Minister's personal secretary, the Minister's private secretary and the Minister's assistant. The Minister has also announced that he will be taking over the duties of the Minister's personal secretary.

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Heads for
shift
of power

show



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ear gas used to lift siege by farmers of EEC headquarters

From Michael Horanby
Brussels, March 31

Riot police used tear gas here tonight to disperse several thousand farmers, mainly from France and Italy, who had besieged the headquarters of the EEC's Council of Ministers in support of their demands for higher farm prices.

Inside the building Mr Gerrit Braks, the Dutch Minister of Agriculture, and chairman of the council, had earlier deplored the belligerence of the demonstrators and said that the ministerial talks on prices might have to be called off if the violence continued.

There were more demonstrators than yesterday when a French farmer was knocked down and killed by a car, an incident that may have inflamed emotions. The farmers taunted the rows of police hurling stones and rotten eggs, vegetables, stones and bottles. A policeman was hit in the eye, and a car damaged.

Commenting on the violence, Mr Peter Walker, the British Agriculture Minister, said: "I very much regret the demonstration because it was out of hand and that innocent people and policemen were attacked. There is absolutely no need for such demonstrations. Nor is there any chance of influencing a group of ministers by throwing stones and eggs."

The farmers are demanding an increase of more than 15 per cent in farm support prices, which they claim is the minimum necessary to offset the effects of inflation on their production costs. The latest offer, presented tonight by the European Commission, would give them about 9 per cent on average.

In practice, however, the support prices in Denmark, Ireland, France, Italy and Greece would be raised by additional amounts ranging from 2.5 per cent to 9 per cent as the result of a series of "green" currency devaluations,

also being proposed by the Commission.

The Commission's original proposal was for an average price rise of 7.8 per cent, but it had become clear that this was unacceptably low to the great majority of member states. The Commission's position was weakened last week when the European Parliament voted for a 12 per cent increase.

Under pressure from member states, the Commission has also amended its proposals for imposing financial penalties on farmers who overproduce and contribute to surpluses. The main casualty is a proposed 145-tonne "super tax" on excess milk production, which has now been withdrawn.

Mr Walker, looking likely tonight to put up the stiffest opposition to the new package of measures. His main objection was not to the proposed price increase but to a 3.4 per cent reduction of the "green" pound which would cut British farmers' prices by the same amount. This, he said, was unacceptable.

Mr Walker also rejected a proposed 25 per cent cut in the 13 pence per lb subsidy on butter consumption in Britain, which is financed entirely out of Community funds and is worth about £55m a year. He also objected to a cut in the existing cow subsidy.

There was one good point in the new proposals from Britain's point of view, Mr Walker said, and that was the provision for continuing the special British system for supporting beef producers. Under the Commission's earlier proposal this would have been phased out.

It is estimated that the new proposals, if adopted, would add £155m to Community expenditure this year and a further £570m in 1982. Coupled with the effect of any prices agreed next year this extra cost could take the Community close to the limit of its revenue resources.

'Die Welt' editor dismissed

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, March 31

Embittered and resigned, the editor and journalists of the conservative daily *Die Welt* parted company today after losing their battle to preserve the comparatively liberal style of their paper.

The dismissal of Herr Peter Boenisch as editor ends a two-and-a-half-year phase during which *Die Welt*, the flagship of the right-wing Springer press, developed into a more lively, readable and open-minded paper.

From tomorrow, he will be replaced by a directorate of three leading right-wing journalists who are expected to steer *Die Welt* back on to an ultra-conservative course.

Herr Matthias Walden, the chief political commentator of the Springer press, will be co-publisher with Herr Axel Heringer, the owner Dr Herbert Krump, former editor and later Peking correspondent, will return as joint editor with Herr Wilfried Hertz-Eichenrode, the home editor.

Herr Springer's plans, and the journalists' opposition, were first disclosed on February 4 in *The Times*. Angrier Herr Springer denounced the report as speculation and distortion of the truth.

The announcement ended a struggle by the journalists against their publisher which was unparalleled in the history of the West German press. The staff felt it an offence to their professional dignity to be expected to support a line which most found distasteful. After seeing 14 editors in 13 years they also wanted peace and continuity.

Herr Boenisch, who had inspired exceptional devotion and enthusiasm among the staff, was given a standing ovation at an earlier editorial meeting.

An announcement by the Springer publishing company said he had been recalled to the company's headquarters in West Berlin for other duties.

Nato group backs US on arms talks with Russia

From Frederick Bonnard
Brussels, March 31

No date was set for negotiations with the Soviet Union on arms control at today's meeting of Nato's special consultative group in Brussels.

The group, which is to prepare the allied position in the negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on theatre nuclear forces, was set up after the December 1979 decision to deploy American Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in Europe to counter the growing Soviet arsenal of theatre nuclear missiles.

Today's meeting was the first since the Reagan Administration took office. Allied officials emphasized that it gave its full support to the two-track decision of December 1979 of producing and deploying missiles while offering to negotiate their limitation and reduction.

The officials point out that this decision tied a military modernization programme to a political undertaking to negotiate, and that the whole of this process is continuing on schedule.

Although the Soviet Union has initially rejected negotiations, allied solidarity and firmness in adhering to the decision, the Nato diplomats state, re-

Another boy found dead near Atlanta

Atlanta, March 29.—The body of a black boy was found this afternoon in the Chattahoochee river, the twenty-first black child to be found dead in the Atlanta area in the past 20 months.

The only thing we know is that we have located the body of a young black male, that meets criteria of those found recently", Fulton County Police said.

Local residents found the body about 3.30 pm while boating on the river. Police Sergeant Denny Hendrix said the body was clad only in underwear and was not decomposed.

Members of the police task force that has been investigating the rash of slayings and disappearances of black children since July, 1979, were called to the scene.

Asked to estimate the age of the victim, Sergeant Hendrix said he was more than 10 years old and less than 20".

The body found today was the eighth discovered in south-west Fulton County and the third found in Area Rivers—AP.

Warders taken hostage in Sicilian prison

Messina, Sicily, March 31.—Six warders were taken hostage today by prisoners at Gazi jail near here, informed sources said.

The prison was immediately surrounded by police. The warders were believed to be held in the prison infirmary.

The prison revolt was led by three men, armed with hand-made weapons, who have asked to speak to court officials. There have been more than 10 prison revolts in Italy since the beginning of the year, and hostages have been taken on a number of occasions—Agence France-Press.

هكذا من الأصل

Moscow alarmed by Polish party's loss of authority

From Michael Einyon
Moscow, March 31

Though the Soviet Union is clearly relieved that a general strike in Poland has been averted, the terms of the settlement last night between the independent trade union movement Solidarity and the Polish Government must be seen here as deeply disturbing, and will add to the Soviet conviction that the Polish Communist Party has lost control of the situation.

Significantly, the Soviet media have made no comment on the settlement beyond a one-sentence announcement last night by Tass that Solidarity had decided to call off the strike after talks with the Government. That was the only mention of the decision to appear in this evening's edition of *Izvestia*.

The terms of the agreement, which will probably not be made public here, fly in the face of everything the Soviet press has been saying for the past week. The Government concessions to the union contradict the strong pressure believed to have been put on the

Polish authorities to take a tough line with Solidarity and the dissidents.

In particular, the Russians will be unhappy with the agreement that those responsible for the incident in Bydgoszcz, which sparked off the latest crisis, will be put on trial and punished if found guilty. The Russians have publicly stated that the police acted legally and have blamed Solidarity for using the incident to whip up tension.

The Russians believe that any criticism of the security forces in a communist state sets a dangerous precedent. And given the widespread rumours that some third force was responsible for the order to the Bydgoszcz police, they will not welcome a public inquiry bringing such allegations into the open.

Another point of the agreement that Moscow will find hard to accept is the decision to set up a commission to study the case for an independent union for Poland's farmers. The Russians already see Solidarity, representing industrial workers, developing into a dangerous

political opposition to the Communist Party. They do not want any further erosion of the party's authority in the country—especially as the Warsaw Government had earlier stood firm in its refusal to register a rival branch of Solidarity.

The decision to pay the strikers for the four hours they did not work last week will be taken as an affront by the Russians, who are already obliged to offer their western neighbour substantial hard currency loans to help it out of its economic quagmire. The Russians have spoken of the great economic damage the strikes have caused in Poland, and will view the decision not to withhold wages as a virtual incentive to further strikes.

The fact that must worry the Russians above all is that industrial peace appears to have been bought at the price of a further loss of face and authority by the party. The Soviet Union has made its stand clear over the past week: Tass said Solidarity was directed by counter-revolutionaries and was making insidious demands it knew the Government—and by

implications the Russians also could not accept.

But the Polish Government ignored these signals of Moscow's anger in what looks like clear defiance of the Soviet warnings given to the Polish leadership after the Soviet Party congress earlier this month. This may be taken here as a weakening of Warsaw's commitment at the time to "turn the course of events".

If such "defiance" by both the Government and unions is allowed to continue, Soviet threats and warnings may cease to have any effect. Indeed the Soviet press has already levelled every conceivable charge against Solidarity and there is little more left to say. Given the obvious Soviet reluctance to intervene, these ever more ominous press comments are beginning to sound like someone crying wolf.

The Russians will also not be pleased by the decision at the plenum to hold the party congress in July, in spite of Soviet pressure for a postponement. The Russians have already had a worrying taste of the public criticisms levelled at senior

party officials during the plenum, and believe such open divisions within the party can only weaken what little authority it still has.

Tass did not report any of the sharp debate at the plenum. Instead the Soviet papers today reported at length the warnings of Mr Kazimierz Barcikowski, a hardline former Deputy Prime Minister, that Solidarity was pushing the country along the road of "creeping counter-revolution".

Reflecting the Soviet view, Mr Barcikowski was quoted saying yesterday that the structure and survival of Poland were at stake.

"It is no longer a matter of pressure being put on authority but a direct struggle against our party and the existing state authority, against socialism. This is a struggle for power. It is imperative for all our party and the part of our society which is aware of the danger to realize this threat," *Pravda* quoted him saying.

The Russians believe that unless there is a showdown with Solidarity and leading dissidents are arrested, the threat of further strikes will recur,

with the Government gradually surrendering more and more power to the unions.

In such a situation Moscow sees the divisions within the party increasing, making it hard for the party to reassert its authority. But they also fear that the hardliners on the Central Committee will be ousted at the July congress, and to prevent the election of a liberal majority in the Czechoslovak Central Committee that the Russians "invited" when they did in 1968.

For the moment the Russians see no alternative but to accept the new agreement with Solidarity. But Poland will be an important topic of conversation with Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, who arrives here on Thursday for three days of talks on arms control in Europe. He will make it clear to Moscow again that a Soviet intervention in Poland would immediately scuttle any further prospect of agreement on limiting nuclear armaments in Europe, something the Russians now consider an "urgent priority".



Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity union leader (left), showing signs of strain at a press conference after the decision to suspend a threatened general strike.

Warsaw Pact manoeuvres extended

Berlin, March 31.—Warsaw Pact manoeuvres involving Polish and other Soviet bloc troops are continuing in East Germany and along Poland's Baltic coast, the East German news agency ADN said today.

The report appeared to deny statements from Western sources which said that field exercises in Poland were over, although co-ordination with Poland's military was continuing.

Western sources in Bonn had earlier believed that the field exercises in Poland were over, although co-ordination with Poland's military was continuing.

East Germany has been the Soviet bloc's harshest critic of reform in Poland since last summer's strikes on the Baltic coast and also has given fullest reports on the manoeuvres.

ADN said at the weekend that troops involved in the manoeuvres from the beginning had been pulled back to barracks and were replaced with fresh forces.—UPI.

No imminent threat: The State Department said today that although military activities by Warsaw Pact troops were continuing in and around Poland, there appeared to be no imminent threat against the people of that country (David Cross writes from Washington).

Administration officials have said privately since the Polish workers decided to suspend their threatened strike the situation in and around Poland is less tense than at the end of last week and during the week-end.

"We have to stop them (confrontations) and to sort out the agreements we have reached. There were so many agreements reached that it would be difficult to reach all of them," he said.

Leaders of the independent union of farmers formed during a meeting last month in Poman, bitterly criticized the agreement with the Government which, they said, did not provide for immediate registration of their solidarity-style union. The accord provides for a government commission to study the issue. The union had sought registration by early April—AP and UPI.

France will renew credit to Poland

From a Correspondent
Paris, March 31

The French Government will grant Poland 4,000m francs credit (about £362m) for 1981, the same amount it granted last year.

Confirmation of the grant was made after talks between President Giscard d'Estaing and Mr Mieczyslaw Jagielski, a Polish Deputy Prime Minister, at the Elysee Palace today. The hour-long talks, which Mr Jagielski described as "very interesting and very profitable", concerned the pressing economic problems that France is facing.

Mr René Monory, the French Economic Affairs Minister, established yesterday the form of economic aid to Poland. This aid comes in three parts.

First, a new credit has been agreed to help Poland pay interest on its debt for the next two years. Second, a credit of 900m francs has been agreed to export steel, textile and chemical products to Poland during 1981. Third, 1,500m francs have been earmarked as credit for food products from France during this year.

Poland already owes about \$3,500m to the West, and the financing of further credit shows considerable good will on behalf of France.

The French President indicated that a "special procedure" was being examined in France to help Poland face its current food shortage problems.

During the Elisee talks, Mr Jagielski also informed Mr Giscard d'Estaing about the present situation of his country and the results of the meeting between his Government and Mr Lech Walesa the Solidarity leader.

"This meeting has once again confirmed that France remains a faithful friend of Poland", Mr Jagielski said.

Talks on debt, page 17



Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, with Herr Schmidt in Bonn.

Herr Schmidt links aid to restraint

From Our Own Correspondent
Bonn, March 31

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, made it clear today that he would stop the flow of West German credits to Poland if the Polish Army were used to restore order by force in the country.

He said that President Reagan, with whom he spoke on the telephone shortly before the attempted assassination as well as President Giscard d'Estaing of France and other Western leaders agreed with his position.

It was the first time that the Chancellor has spoken of breaking off aid to Poland if

the social unrest were resolved by force from within rather than by a Soviet invasion.

Since West Germany is Poland's biggest creditor—its present Poland's debt to Bonn amounts to £2,000m—his statement amounts to considerable pressure against any violent suppression of the free trade unions.

In a joint press conference with Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, today, the Chancellor said that if force were used in Poland "credit would not only cease to flow but the whole world would change".

He said he and Mr Haughey had agreed to help Poland as

"long as force is not used, either from outside or from within".

The Chancellor repeated his statement at a conference of Social Democratic workers' representatives, adding that aid to Poland was prompted by "European solidarity". If things went badly in Poland the trouble could spread to the rest of Europe, he said.

West Germany, for whom a tragic ending to the Solidarity movement in Poland would be a political disaster, has been helping the country with export guarantees and credits. This year alone it has granted guarantees of nearly £100m for food aid.

Mr Trudeau offers to let court decide

From John Best
Ottawa, March 31

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, today offered to allow the Supreme Court of Canada to decide on the validity of his plan to patriate the country's constitution from Westminster.

His carefully qualified undertaking came after the Canadian constitutional debate had taken a new twist today when the Newfoundland Court of Appeal ruled unanimously in favour of the provinces and against the position of the federal Government.

Mr Trudeau, replying to Conservative MPs, said his Liberal Government would refrain from "pressing" the patriation proposal on the British Parliament providing the Canadian Opposition would allow the proposal to come to a vote in Ottawa.

Canadian Conservatives have been blocking passage of the Government's proposals through a series of procedural moves. Mr Trudeau rejected demands to withdraw the controversial plan. Nor would he agree not to forward the plan to Westminster for possible first reading once it was approved in Ottawa, but he indicated that this point was negotiable.

Mr Trudeau said the resolution should be approved by the Canadian House of Commons by Easter Monday to pave the way for Supreme Court consideration. If the judgment went against the Government, the proposal would be dropped.

The Newfoundland court had ruled that the federal Govern-

Ronald Biggs is refused bail in Barbados

Bridgetown, March 31.—Ronald Biggs was denied bail today after a request by Britain to extradite him. He is wanted in Britain for escaping from prison while serving a 30-year sentence for robbing the London-Glasgow mail train in 1964.

The hearing before a magistrate was adjourned until tomorrow and Mr Biggs was put in a Barbados prison for the night.

"If I had a choice I wouldn't go back to Britain," he told the court.

Asked what guarantee he could give that he would return if released, he replied: "I have given only what I can give in that is my word"—AP.

Restoring rule of law in equatorial Guinea

From Harry Dehellis
Madrid, March 31

Colonel Teodoro Obiang Nguema, President of Equatorial Guinea, took an important step last week towards fulfilling his promise to demilitarize the Government and establish the rule of law in his small African country, with the appointment of the first civilian member of his Cabinet. Mr Emilio Bole was made Minister of Agriculture.

Diplomatic sources in Madrid said the appointment announced last Monday in Bata, the chief city of the mainland part of Equatorial Guinea, Mr Bole is an agricultural engineer, rarely in a country from which virtually everyone with higher education—and many without—fled during the despotic rule of the dictator, Francisco Macias Nguema.

Colonel Obiang Nguema, who came to power in August, 1979, in a coup d'etat, immediately sought the aid of Spain, the former colonial power, to rebuild his country from the economic and political ruins left by his predecessor.

He told his people early last month that the Government was drafting a constitution and that he intended to diminish the political role of the armed forces gradually.

One of the first measures to that end was a decree, published early this month, which obliged military men holding government posts to declare by the end of this week whether they prefer to return to strictly military duties or retain their jobs in the administration. In the latter case they must accept an extended leave of absence from the armed forces.

While there is not even a semblance of democratic institutions so far, 19 months after

the colonel took over, diplomats who knew the country under President Macias said there is a great deal more freedom under the present regime and no evidence of the fear of arbitrary personal decisions which was widespread.

In contrast to the gradual breakdown of public services, and the collapse of the economy under Mr Macias, there are faint but noticeable signs that the country is climbing back to the cultural and economic levels from which it slipped during the 11 years of the dictator's absolute and bloodthirsty hold on power—a period in which hundreds of dissenters were killed and at least one-third of the population, estimated at 600,000, fled into exile.

The country's only newspaper, *Ebano*, now appears weekly. Regular publishing, except for occasional decrees and the like, had ground to a halt under the self-styled "man of steel", Mr Macias.

With the help of about a hundred and twenty Spanish advisers, the administration is becoming organized. Late last year Equatorial Guinea was divided into six provinces—two on the island of Francisco Macias (formerly Fernando Poo), south of the Bight of Biafra, and four in the mainland part of the country (Rio Muni). Moves have been made to decentralize government functions.

Schools and medical centres, which almost ceased to operate altogether in the latter days of the Macias regime, have begun to function again.

A number of Equatorial Guinean students are studying in Spain on scholarship grants in order to fill the country's crying need for all kinds of skills.



America's First Lady arriving to see her wounded husband at George Washington University Hospital yesterday.

The Reagan family

'We have to stop this garbage'

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles, March 31

"My reaction is fury and rage that in this country this kind of garbage is still going on," President Reagan's older daughter, Maureen Reagan, said before she and other members of her family left Los Angeles by air last night to visit their wounded father. "We have got to stop it—right now."

Miss Reagan, aged 39, and her brother Michael, aged 37, children from Mr. Reagan's first marriage to Jane Wyman, the actress—and Patri Davis, the Reagan's youngest daughter, who is an actress, have arrived in Washington.

The President's younger son, Ron Reagan, aged 23, left the Jeffrey Ballet Company in Nebraska shortly after the shooting to return to Washington.

In Los Angeles the reaction to the assassination attempt was similar to that in the rest of the country—horror and shock. Hollywood's big night, the Academy Awards, which was due to take place on Monday, was postponed for 24 hours. It was only the third time in the academy's 53-year history that the event has been postponed.

Lending irony to the situation was the planned appearance of Mr. Reagan on pre-recorded video at the start of the live Oscar awards ceremony, which he beamed on television around the world.

The White House today will decide whether the message from the President will be shown on tonight's show. The show's producer, Norman Jewison, explained: "We just felt that with the attempted assassination of the President this was a time to go on the air with a celebration of films. It's not a fun time."

The Oscar ceremony was last postponed in 1968 after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. Mr. Jewison and the show's host, Johnny Carson, were frantically rewriting the script for the programme, which was packed with jokes about Mr.

'We are indignant' Mr Brezhnev says

By Our Foreign Staff

Leaders of communist and on-communist nations of the world joined yesterday to condemn the assassination attempt on President Reagan. The White House was inundated with messages of condolence.

President Brezhnev sent a telegram of sympathy to President Reagan expressing his indignation at the attempt.

The message, published by the news agency Tass, read: "We have learned with indignation about an attempt on your life. We firmly condemn that criminal act. On behalf of the Soviet leadership and on my own behalf I wish you, Mr. President, a full and early recovery."

The assassination attempt was discussed with shock and concern by many Russians yesterday who heard some of the details on Soviet radio.

Mr Zhao Ziyang, Prime Minister of China, sent a telegram to Mr. Reagan: "Shocked to learn of your being wounded... I wish you a speedy recovery."

Senator Edward Kennedy said: "My family has been touched by violence. Violence and hatred have no place in our society or in our country. They know no party, they know no nationality. Yet we see it

continue in our society and in our country. "With our prayers for those who have been wounded... must go our resolution to rid our society of violence and to eliminate hatred in our society."

In the Vatican, the Pope said he had learned with deep sorrow of the senseless and violent act. He prayed for Mr. Reagan's recovery and denounced in a telegram "all manifestation of violence and terrorism and every act that violates human dignity in any individual."

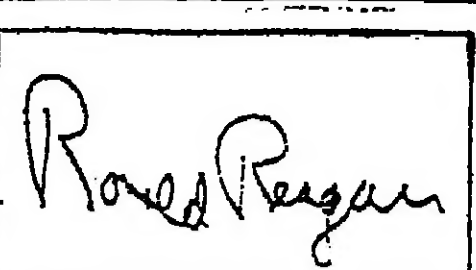
In London, Prince Philip addressed an international conference on human values, which opened with a prayer for Mr. Reagan.

In the House of Commons, the Speaker, Mr. George Thomas, said he had sent a telegram of good wishes to President Reagan.

In Bonn, Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, said he was horrified at the assassination attempt. In Tehran, Ayatollah Khomeini said Iran would shed no tears for President Reagan because the Islamic revolutionary regime is no longer dependent on the United States. The Voice of America, page 14



2.30 pm, March 30, President Reagan is shot in the chest. Breakfast time, March 31, after major surgery, the President puts his signature (right) to an Act of Congress, on his



breakfast tray, for legislation stopping automatic dairy farm subsidy increases. For comparison, see below his signature on Inauguration Day.

Who's in charge?

Bush and Meese in control after Haig misjudgment

From Patrick Brogan and David Cross
Washington, March 31

In the heat of the moment yesterday afternoon, Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, announced: "As of now, I am in control at the White House." When he said it, live on television from the White House press room, the President was in the operating theatre and the Vice-President in an aircraft returning from Texas.

Senior members of the President's staff were at the hospital and the Cabinet had gathered in the White House Situation room, where Mr Haig had "taken charge". He was very tense and his voice was barely under control when he made the statement—the *New York Times* said that "his voice was trembling and his face perspiring".

The phrase may come back to haunt him. The first mini-crisis of the Reagan Administration occurred a week ago, when Mr Reagan appointed Vice-President Bush to be chairman of a "crisis management committee", instead of Mr Haig. The Secretary of State expressed his dissatisfaction in public, and Mr Bush's formal appointment amounted to a formal reprimand of the Secretary of State by the President.

Now there is a real crisis, and quite without authority—gratuitously—Mr Haig announced that he was in charge. He claimed that his authority derived from a line of authority running from President to Vice-President to Secretary of State. Later, a White House press spokesman said that the President had recently issued a directive governing control of national security, under which authority in an emergency would be exercised first by the Vice-President, then by the Secretary of Defence.

Mr Reagan's senior staff, notably his counsellor, Mr Edwin Meese, and Mr James Baker, his Chief of Staff, were most unhappy at Mr Haig's conduct over the proposal to make Mr Bush chairman of the crisis committee. His assumption of authority yesterday is not going to please them.

Today both White House and State Department spokesmen denied there had been any friction between Mr Haig and his colleagues. Mr Haig's spokesman conceded that Mr Meese and Mr Baker had not been told in advance about Mr Haig's statement, but he insisted that both men thought later he had done the right thing.

Explaining why Mr Haig had thought it necessary to tell the world that he was in charge, the spokesman said Mr Haig had wanted to tell the American people and its allies that Washington was functioning normally and was not "unmindful" of the delicate situation in Poland.

The Government's official line today is that Mr Reagan is making a rapid and complete recovery, and is exercising his office. It is already apparent that he is not. A President cannot administer the Government from hospital.

Mr Andries van Agt, the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, is in town and was to have lunch with the President. He will have lunch with Mr Bush instead. The day-to-day running of the Government will probably devolve upon Mr Meese. The Reagan Administration is a more collegial affair than most, with Cabinet officers and such officials as Mr Meese reaching decisions by discussion and consensus.

This will have to continue during Mr Reagan's incapacity, but there is bound to be a hiatus, compounded by the resentment of Mr Haig's colleagues at his behaviour.

It is a desperately inconvenient moment for the Administration. Mr Reagan was marching forward, foot and horse, with his Democratic opponents in extreme disarray. His budget proposals were doing well in Congress, particularly in the Senate.

In the House of Representatives, the Democrats are putting up a spirited rear-guard action, attempting to save some social programmes from the wreckage, retreating and regrouping under Mr Reagan's ceaseless attack.

The American legislative process requires a President's constant attention: Mr Carter's greatest failure was his inability to realize this. Mr Reagan has spent far more time cajoling Congressmen than Mr Carter did, telephoning them, having them and their wives to the White House, making speeches urging various powerful interest groups to support his proposals.

He delivered just such a speech to a trade union meeting yesterday, just before he was shot.

The question is whether the Administration can keep the initiative, whether "momentum"—that magical quality that plays such an

essential role in American politics—can be kept up. We were assured this morning by a White House spokesman that "the White House never missed a beat", that the Government of the United States continued uninterrupted.

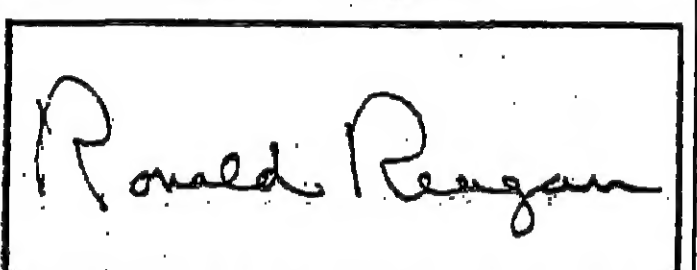
No one really believes that, but in the event it was not important. The Russians did not invade Poland yesterday.

It is now clear that Mr Reagan will be wholly recovered in two or three months. This intervening period is unquestionably the greatest challenge that a new Administration could possibly have to face in peacetime.

Overseas trip: The State Department announced today that, in spite of the attempt on Mr Reagan's life, Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, would be going ahead with his first overseas visit to the Middle East and Europe later this week.

A department spokesman told reporters that no change in his projected week-long trip was required because the Administration in Washington was now functioning normally.

Mr Haig leaves Washington on Friday night for talks in Cairo, Tel Aviv, Amman, Riyadh, Madrid and London. The main purpose of his trip is to discuss general security in the Middle East and South West Asia, as well as the future of peace efforts between Israel and its Arab neighbours.



2.31 pm, March 30, Mr James Brady, aged 40, Press Secretary, lies wounded on the pavement. He sustained greater injuries than any other victim of the shooting.

The violent society

Gun lobby still riding high

From Michael Leapman
New York, March 31

Someone is shot dead in the United States every 48 minutes. Guns are the second most common cause of unnatural death after the motor car.

Of the 20,000 murders committed in this country every year, half are by the gun. There are about 50 million handguns in the United States and five million new ones are manufactured every year, sold by 165,000 firearm dealers.

The statistics are terrifying; but they do not sway the firmly entrenched opponents of gun control in Washington. They regard the freedom to bear arms as an inalienable right of Americans, and point to the Second Amendment to the Constitution for textual support.

It reads: "A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

Attempts to place some control on that right, at both the federal and local level, have met stout resistance from the National Rifle Association, the powerful Washington group lobbying against gun control. The resulting legislation has been largely ineffective.

In 1968, after the assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, a federal Gun Control Act was passed. It banned the sale of guns by mail order and forbade sales to felons, mental patients and drug addicts—provisions which have proved hard to enforce. Even this is too tough for many. The Republican Party's manifesto for last year's election suggested a repeal of some provisions of the 1968 Act. Mr Reagan supported it wholeheartedly.

Mandatory sentences for commission of armed felonies are the most effective means to deter abuse," the platform stated. "We therefore support congressional initiatives to remove those provisions of the Gun Control Act of 1968 that do not significantly impact on crime but serve rather to restrain the law-abiding citizen in his legitimate use of firearms."

The platform went on to suggest that the wider use of capital punishment would be a more effective deterrent to major crimes than gun control.

Washington DC, where the President was shot, has one of the two or three toughest local gun laws in the country. Under it, private ownership of hand guns is almost banned.

In New York, one of the dozen most violent American cities, the authorities have placed warning posters on prominent sites boasting of the ruthlessness of the local laws. Anyone caught carrying an unlicensed gun here is automatically charged with a felony.

Hand Gun Control Incorporated is a Washington lobby group which favours strict laws against weapons possession. Its chairman is Mr Nelson Shields whose son was shot to death in San Francisco some years ago.

"It is virtually impossible to protect the President of the United States with 60 million hand guns in circulation and another two million flooding the market every year," he said today. "An attempt on the President's life was almost predictable and that is a tragedy all of us must share..."

"We need the strength and will of Congress to enact legislation already introduced in both houses," he said.

There is little chance of the legislation to which he refers, which would strengthen gun control, getting an early hearing. The Senate, with its Republican majority, is philosophically against it.

Mr John Snyder, of the Citizens' Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, said in Washington today that, although he expected a flurry of statements in favour of gun control in the next few weeks, pressure would die down after a while. That is certainly the usual pattern. It happened most recently after the killing of John Lennon in New York in December.

Mr Snyder said that, with the present line-up of political forces in Washington, it was more likely that a Bill sponsored by the National Rifle Association to weaken controls would be passed.

"After all, Mr Reagan is the most pro-gun President we have had in many years," he said.



Mr John Hinckley Senior, the suspect's father, leaving his Denver, Colorado, home with a Secret Service agent.

The Hinckley family

Gunman suspect was neo-Nazi

By Our Own Correspondent
New York, March 31

The man accused of shooting the President yesterday is a 25-year-old drifter who has belonged to right-wing political groups and who was arrested with three pistols near where President Carter was campaigning in Tennessee last October.

Mr John Warnock Hinckley was charged in Washington early today with attempting a presidential assassination—a federal crime for which the maximum penalty is life imprisonment.

To want to kill a president suggests powerful delusions. Mr Hinckley's history suggests that derangement and irrationality are in his character. He joined the National Socialist Party, a neo-Nazi group, in 1978 but was expelled in 1979 because his ideas were too extreme and violent.

"He wanted to shoot people and blow things up," Mr Michael Allen, the party's president-elect, said.

Mr Harold Covington, the party leader, added: "He felt we were not sufficiently militant for him. He wanted us to go out and commit unlawful acts. We sort of carried on a debate about it... He struck me as a sincere person who felt something had to be done."

Many of his acquaintances—He seems to have had few actual friends—called him a "loner", a neat word to dismiss someone who drifts by himself because he can find nobody with whom he wants to communicate. His parents in Evergreen, a small town in Colorado, said he had received psychiatric treatment.

His father, Mr John Hinckley senior, is a thriving, successful businessman, president of the Vanderbilt Energy Corporation in Denver, Colorado.

A neighbour said of Mr and Mrs Hinckley's relationship with their son: "They only talked about him in the way parents would when they hoped their individualist (son) would come round to the idea of the gun."

The Hinckleys were reported in a Texas newspaper today to have contributed to the presidential campaign of Vice-President George Bush last year.

His father, Mr John Hinckley senior, is a thriving, successful businessman, president of the Vanderbilt Energy Corporation in Denver, Colorado.

After leaving high school, the suspect went to Texas Tech university at Lubbock, Texas. His tutor, Professor Otto Nelson, said he surprised him and colleagues by being their first

student to choose *Mein Kampf* by Adolf Hitler as a text on which to write a book report. "He did a good job on it and I gave him 90 per cent," Mr Nelson said.

He left Texas Tech in 1980 without gaining a degree and held a variety of short-term jobs since then. He has been a salesman in Hollywood, a bartender in Denver and a book-keeper in Dallas.

Last October he was held by police at the airport at Nashville, Tennessee. He tried to board a flight to New York carrying three pistols, a pair of handcuffs and 50 rounds of ammunition.

President Carter was in Nashville that day attending a rally and Mr Reagan had cancelled a plan to visit Memphis nearby in the same week. Mr Hinckley was released on bail of \$62,500 (£27,000) which he forfeited when he did not appear.

Despite all that, Mr Hinckley did not appear on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's list of the 400 people most likely to try to kill the President.

There is a subsidiary list of 25,000 people who are watched less closely, as being less markedly of the presidential assassination type. Mr Hinckley does not appear on that one, either.

It was four days after his Nashville arrest that he went to Rocky's pawn shop in Dallas and bought two .22-calibre revolvers for \$47 each.

With his friends, witnesses to yesterday's shooting and the moments leading to it report that Mr Hinckley, 5ft 10in and fair haired, appeared "fidgety" and "hostile" as he waited for the President to leave the Hilton hotel in Washington after lunch.

"He kept turning his body from side to side", a bystander said. Yet he did not appear to have been closely questioned by police or servicemen on duty at the exit.

Letter found: Investigations have found an unposted letter written by John Warnock Hinckley which indicated "he might go out and do something to get himself killed", according to United States Justice Department sources.

The sources, who would not be identified, said the letter was found in his quarters, also reflected that Mr Hinckley was in an "I don't care what happens to me" frame of mind. They did not say to whom the letter was addressed, nor would they say exactly when it was written.

Drama of three-hour Reagan operation

From Robert Reinhold
Washington, March 31

President Reagan was treated for a partially collapsed lung on Monday but the bullet that entered his left side and lodged in the tissue of his left lung did not do much further damage, according to doctors who operated on him.

Emergency surgical procedures, which took about three hours, found no bleeding in the abdominal area and therefore no damage to vital organs. He lost about five pints of blood before surgery.

Even before entering the operating room doctors at the George Washington University Hospital made a small incision in the President's chest wall to insert a chest tube. That device creates suction and removes air pressure from the lung cavity and reinflates the collapsed lung.

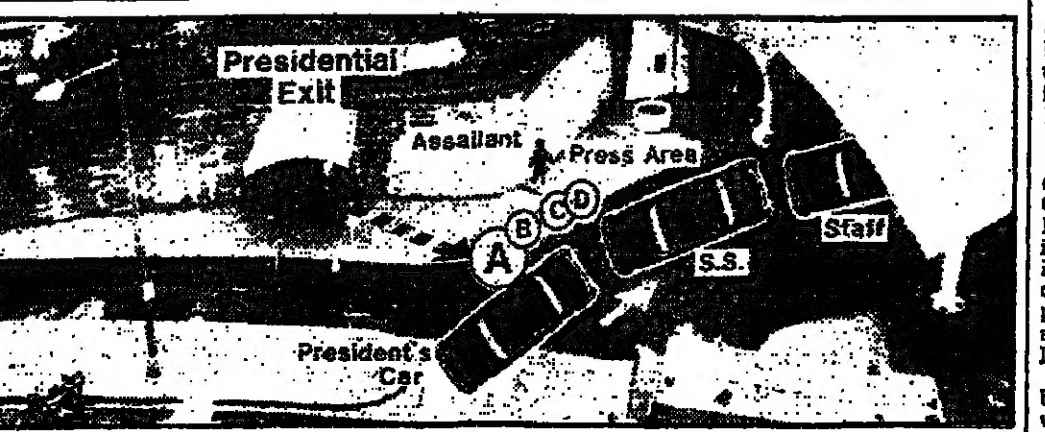
Neither the heart nor vital blood vessels, such as the aorta, were affected, Dr Dennis

O'Leary, Dean for Clinical Affairs at the hospital, said at a briefing last night. The bullet was never close to any vital structure, he said.

The single bullet entered below the President's left armpit, travelled down about three inches, and was then deflected and deformed when it hit his seventh rib. From there it penetrated about three inches into Mr Reagan's left lung.

Uncertainty about whether the bullet, or fragments of it, had penetrated the abdominal cavity necessitated performing a technique in which a small incision in the abdomen is made, fluid inserted, and then withdrawn to see if blood is present. None was found and the surgeons made a six-inch incision in Mr Reagan's chest just below the left nipple to treat his lung injury and remove the bullet.

He underwent nearly three hours of surgery, not unusual in such cases. New York Times News Service.



—from *The New York Times* yesterday



unity; the unity of exaltation over great deeds like the moon landing; the unity of joy, as on that split-screen day just 10 weeks ago Tuesday. As the hostages were released on one side of the world, Ronald Reagan welcomed the country to his Washington. "Standing here," he said, "one faces a magnificent vista, opening up on this city's special beauty and history."

May he, and we, soon repair that history and reclaim that beauty.

© New York Times, 1981.

We will not believe that it has been until those damnable firearms have been put out of the reach of every criminal and potential criminal who wants one—to whom they are accessible now. But we do not move for this is some general complaint about the society itself or to those old and spurious complaints about how we are a violent or aggressive people collectively. The caption on this dreadful picture is not that Americans as a nation or a people are violent or weak, but that some among us are—and are armed.

☐ Washington Post, 1981

as it happens, Dr Owen) are taking to make clear that they are not simply maintaining that there is a gulf between the Labour and Conservative parties and that they hope to occupy it. Of course their manifesto amounted to little more than praise of virtue and denunciation of sin, but their language is not just that of Batschellism or the flabbier bits of the Labour Party, which is why the Tories, too, would be well advised to be nervous of the new group.

Would I vote for them? I don't know, which itself surprises me, and certainly reinforces my belief that they are just promising us a way out of our difficulties that will involve no pain. But they were promising that I would not need to give the question two minutes' thought. If, in the standard opinion-poll question, there were a General Election question, would still vote for Mr. Thatcher. But there isn't an Election tomorrow, so for the moment I can duck the question. Duck the question? Goodness. I am beginning to sound like Mr Foot, and had better stop there for today.

The report I quoted in my column of March 26, about the atrocities visited upon Armenians in 1915, is by David Marshall and Christopher J. Walker. It is published by the Minority Rights Group, 36 Craven Street, London, W.C.2, under the title (The Armenians.)

Ronald Fai

On the north face of the Eiger, the sort of Alpine challenge that British guides are now qualified to tackle.

which should gladden the hearts of Mrs Thatcher and John Nott, the Defence Secretary, the writer says that as the paper is more absorbent, the army would use less of it than the presently-employed Spartan type.

"Crusader" continues: "I challenge the relevant authority to show the same versatility and rapid response that the British soldier of the 80s is called upon to show and change to the new paper by the end of the year. The army should be kept for HM prisons and Civil Service departments requiring discomfort."

So this is what the military traditionalists mean by the modern army going soft. I'll wager there's no such molly-coddling among the forces of the Warsaw Pact, where I imagine turn-up copies of the newspaper *Ked Star* serve the same purpose.

Bishop's move

London was not the only diocese in the thoughts of the Bishop of Truro. Dr Graham Leonard, in recent weeks. He had also been approached to see if he

...to parts of Wembley, north of London, on any day of the week. There they discovered the local populace was raiding the floats while the milkmen were on the streets. A horde of tenement-dwellers vainly trying to collect a cash.

...me 40 paintings, mostly landscapes, by Sir Winston Churchill which have languished in the cement at Charswell for years to be exhibited for the first time by the National Trust in Winston's studio, in time for Easter. "Some are good, some average," said the Trust's national director, W. A. King, "and quite honestly, some shocking."

Alan Hamilton



THE GUNMAN'S SHADOW

The United States was born out of the violence of conquest, rebellion and civil war. Its myths are those of the frontier where the fastest gun was king and every man had his fate in his own hands. For reasons which are hunted with increasing desperation, the United States has become a major industrial and military power claiming universality for its values while seeming unable to shake off the darker elements in its tradition. In Britain and West Germany there are 1.3 murders a year for every 100,000 people. In the United States there are 9.7. There are also about fifty-five million firearms in the hands of ordinary citizens.

Does this background of violence and uncontrolled weaponry have any direct bearing on the recurrent assassination of presidents? It must have some. Weapons are easy to acquire. Murder is commonplace in the newspapers, a pervasive threat in the minds of citizens, and almost everyone's familiar entertainment on television, where the daily lesson is that a great many problems can be solved with a gun or a fist. The man who takes the law into his own hands is as often a hero as a criminal.

But there are other elements in the puzzle which are no less disturbing. Presidential assassins and would-be assassins going right back to Richard Lawrence, who fired on President Jackson in 1835, have been found to conform to a fairly predictable type. They tend to be loners from families which are either broken or unsupportive. They have few,

if any, close friends of either sex and no steady job. They often see themselves as failures and outcasts. Most identify themselves with a cause or an ideology without involving themselves closely in it. None has been shown to be part of a significant political conspiracy. The two Puerto Rican nationalists who tried to kill President Truman in 1950 might just edge into this category. John Booth, who killed President Lincoln in 1865, had contact with a few Southern conspirators but not from Southern leaders.

Thus for the most part, whatever rationalizations have been offered, presidential assassins have not been the representatives of political groups or grievances but lonely sick people trying to relieve private tensions of their own. Psychiatrists have tried to explain them by suggesting that because they cannot define their identities by contact with friends and family they use the state, or sometimes an ideology, as a substitute. Aggression, which others express in the give and take of social and family life is concentrated on the head of state and may then be reinforced by the desire to leap with one dramatic gesture from the oppressive anonymity of failure to fame.

This has two worrying implications. First, it makes it very difficult to protect the President. Political conspiracies can often be uncovered, but there are too many lonely sick people from broken families around for preventive action to be taken. The only protection is immediate physical protection, and the more there is of this the more remote the President becomes, which is not good for the elected leader of a democracy.

KEEPING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Year in and year out, civil servants and others within the ambit of the Official Secrets Acts spin out paper documentation at the rate of 100 miles of shelving a year. Most of it is merely ephemeral administrative significance, but it includes much of the essential source material with which the history of our times will eventually be written. The problem is to separate the gold from the dross—especially since historians have developed statistical methods of study which can extract gold from dross, while the undoubted gold includes material sensitive on security or political grounds which some would prefer never to come to light at all.

As yesterday's report by Sir Duncan Wilson comments, it is impossible ever to satisfy all those with inevitably conflicting interests in the fate of these miles of paper. At first sight, his committee's conclusions may seem to indicate that our record on records is quite satisfactory; indeed, there are already signs that that may be the preferred official interpretation of Sir Duncan's work. He calls for new legislation and broadly endorses the judgments of the last major review of the subject, the Grigg report of 1954—whose main recommendations were embodied in the Public Records Act, 1958. But he considers that nevertheless the system has not been working according to the spirit or the letter of Grigg, and finds this "a sobering commentary on the ability of government to implement administrative reforms which it accepted wholeheartedly and embodied in legislation".

A crystal palace

From Mrs Irina Brunt
Sir, The unthinkable attitude, described by Lord Kennet (letter March 23), of the Department of the Environment towards our heritage, and in particular Beverley Minster, makes us write to you with another example, at least as tragic, threatening the conservatory (a Grade I listed building) and the historic gardens of Chiswick House. The conservatory is mentioned by the sixth Duke of Devonshire in a letter to his grandmother dated October 11, 1813, and is clearly shown on a parish map of The Redemption Commission dated April 21, 1847, on the same site as it is now on and of the same shape and size. Now a senior official at the DOE has suggested to Houslow Council that, as it is unlikely that the conservatory was designed by Joseph Paxton, who built the Crystal Palace and the Chatsworth Conservatory, it may now be de-listed (being pre-Paxton!).

Houslow Council eagerly took up the DOE's lead within three days of its being made public. On March 16 it moved to apply for de-listing, which would allow the Council to avoid "the same attention to historic or architectural detail" in order that, it admits, it "could make use of modern materials" (plastic instead of glass). On the Borough Architect's own admission, that would produce "a less elegant building".

Nothing short of the personal intervention of the Secretary of State, Mr Heseltine, can stop the vandalizing of our heritage.

The Chiswick Conservatory is well recognized among the country's leading authorities as the unique forerunner of the nineteenth century glass-house tradition. Of particular note in this context is the central rotunda with its elegant cast-iron columns supporting a lantern and dome in the anglicised Italian manner—a near perfect complement to the Italian gardens set out by the sixth Duke of Devonshire.

It is not only the Whitehall instinct for secrecy which has frustrated the aims of the Grigg report. Those involved in government easily come to assume that it is all about the present and the future, and not the past. Safeguarding the archive is sometimes seen, says Sir Duncan, as merely "a yawn". The staff assigned in the various ministries to do the first weeding out of papers not yet five years old—a process which discards ninety-nine of those 100 miles of paper every year before the remainder are packed off to the Public Record Office—are usually branch or junior officers without the experience that Grigg saw to be necessary. New methods of filing have made selection not easier but more difficult. The committee assigned to propose criteria for the saving of significant samples of dross for the benefit of statistical historians quietly expired ten years ago, having contributed pitifully few yards of paper to the annual mileage, and having had pitifully little influence on those whose task it is to shorten the miles. Too often, dry policy papers survive while the "rich and significant illustrative material" on which they were based vanishes.

In the matter of secrecy, the report is confident that practice could be liberalized without risk to security or excessive administrative inconvenience. It rightly insists that while international political factors may require that some papers be withheld from the public for more than the usual thirty years, party political sensitivities never should. And in

Secondly, it is more deeply disturbing for American society and indeed for America's allies to feel that a figure as powerful as the President is vulnerable to such unpredictable forces. A political conspiracy at least makes sense, and can be countered, however rational people may abhor it. This is probably why there is such a strong drive to look for conspiracies behind the murder of President Kennedy, for instance. An apparently random act by an unstable person exposes one of the most powerful offices on earth to irrational forces.

Fortunately, as events on Monday showed, the political and constitutional machinery of the United States is sufficiently well organized to ride such a crisis and provide the continuity of government which the country and the alliance need. This is a powerful reassurance to set against the anxiety which a threat to the President's life is bound to provoke. But there should be a stronger feeling now that even if there is no quick or easy way of making the lives of American presidents much safer there must be a more urgent look at the background of crime and violence which probably gives additional support to would-be assassins.

Gun control, which President Reagan has opposed, is only part of the answer, and not easy to bring in so long as citizens feel they need to carry guns for their own protection. The roots of the problem lie deeper in American society, as well as in some of the manifest inadequacies of the American legal system. They are unlikely to be reached by the simpler ideas on law and order associated with Mr Reagan himself.

principle, no official file should be considered so sensitive that the authorities can be justified in locking it up and throwing away the key.

Inadequate supervision, inadequate resources and low esteem are at the root of the problem. In the era before Grigg, the public archive was held purely at the discretion of the Master of the Rolls. Today the responsibility lies with a minister accountable to Parliament, the Lord Chancellor. But his power is still too little supervised: the system should be accessible to examination by select committees, and even though secrecy must inevitably surround the treatment of secret papers, it should be possible for selected members of the Advisory Council on Public Records to be allowed some insight into the way the security rules are being applied.

As far as resources are concerned, the report's conclusion that the PRO's cost is modest by international standards, as well as absolutely, confirms how wrong the Government was last year to demand from it spending cuts twice as severe as those imposed on the public sector as a whole. Even in the Lord Chancellor's office, it appears, the historical fallacy that archives are a yawn is lodged. Every year the growing number of professional and amateur historians, journalists and genealogists seeking to consult the embodied memory of our state at Kew or at Chancery Lane bear witness to the depth of that misconception. The Wilson report must not be frustrated and forgotten as the Grigg report has been.

Remembering how the then authorities, in even more difficult circumstances, arranged for the immediate repair of the conservatory after it had been severely damaged by a high explosive bomb on September 28, 1940, are we now to accept at the end of the twentieth century a plastic effort in its place?

Yours faithfully,
IRINA BRUNT.

Honorary Secretary,
Chiswick House Area Residents Association,
36 Park Road, W4,
March 29.

Local authority spending

From the Leader of Kent County Council
Sir, Having read your leader article (March 24) entitled "Britain's soaring rates" a number of times, I am still not clear whether you subscribe to the view that "there is a conspiracy of irresponsible council treasurers which is mocking the pain and suffering of the community", or whether that is your view or not please allow me to make it clear that this is not the case.

The average rate increases of 20 per cent for 1981-82 will certainly reflect some large increases in rates by profitable local authorities but it will also reflect low increases by many prudent authorities making real efforts to balance the needs for economy with the community's demand for services.

There is a great danger that commentators will reach the wrong conclusions about accountability in local government by limiting their attention to the widely reported excesses of authorities like Camden, Lambeth, Sheffield, etc, when the majority of authorities are acting reasonably. No system is perfect, and I think it might be helpful for me to point out some redeeming features of the present system of local government.

First, although I am numbered among the critics of Mr Heseltine's

block grant, it has served to throw into focus some of the excesses of the lunatic fringe of local authorities. These excesses will I am sure figure prominently in the forthcoming elections when ratepayers will have the opportunity to indicate their disapproval of this sort of irresponsible behaviour.

Secondly, your leading article does not mention the fact that local authorities can choose their own auditors—either an approved firm (often an internationally known one) or more usually the district auditor. Recent events in Camden, where the district auditor is investigating overspending, show what a vital role this mechanism plays in strengthening the accountability of local authorities. That is not to say that auditors should be used to threaten local authorities, but they should be recognized as an essential feature in maintaining the accountability of local authorities, thus preserving local autonomy.

Finally, I can repeat yet again the basic truth that, on the evidence of the record, local government is a better performer than central government in the control of resources. In 1981-82 local authorities will spend nearly 21 per cent less than they did in 1975-76 while central government will be spending nearly 8 per cent more. In this period local authority spending as a percentage of total public spending has declined from 29.9 to 25.6.

Instead of central government attempting to extend its control of local government, the nation would be better served if it tried harder to understand the message that local control coupled with local accountability in manageable packages produces better results than making the inevitable mistakes at the centre and getting it wrong for everyone.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GRUCEON,
County Hall,
Maidstone,
Kent.
March 26.

Monetarism: the blame and the sequel

From Mr R. G. Ople

Sir, The petition, signed by 364 academic economists raises two important questions. First, whose responsibility, indeed whose fault, was it that the wicked nonsense that lies at the basis of the Government's economic policies came to pass? Very few academic economists are or have ever been monetarists. Yet many intelligent, interested and concerned people in the City, in Fleet Street and in politics were, and a few still are, ardent believers. These last are guilty of serious sins of commission, but the sin of omission by the academic is no less grave. How, why, did we fail to strangle this theory at birth? Indeed, why did so few of us even try?

The whole country has paid a high price for this creation of the academics. Over the years to come, it will no doubt be a fruitful area of research for economists, psychologists and possibly psychiatrists.

The second problem lies in the future. Inflation has been reduced only by deflation and intolerable unemployment. It will accelerate again and costs will rise. That will certainly happen when demand rises unless we are very lucky. Stocks of finished goods will have been reduced to rock-bottom. Investment in the creation of new capacity will have been cut savagely. Labour will be untrained in the new skills required. As output cannot easily or quickly be expanded, extra spending will create shortages, raise imports and raise costs. The exchange rate will slide, and imports will rise in price as well as in volume. Wages will rise too as profits rise and employers bid competitively for labour.

How can we escape this trap except by planned, phased and sustained growth of spending on investment and retraining starting now and continuing for many years? Or are we doomed to a future which depends for its stability on the reserve army of unemployed predicted by Karl Marx? That is no guarantee of stability but it is one of continuing poverty, unhappiness and even despair.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. OPLE,
New College, Oxford.
March 30.

Albania and its gold

From Lord Bristol

Sir, With regard to Mr William Wilson's letter to you (March 14), since the country, which is dominated by a special breed of communism, all of its own. The gold when released, after an amount is deducted to cover any claim including one for £800,000 by the British Government, should be released to the administration of King Leka and his legal government, who may be prepared to do this. The rebel government in Albania. That deal could be one backed by world confidence to create industry and agricultural activity in Albania, which at the present exerts only a bare subsistence return—and gets a little bit of help from whatever main Communist country it can do so, without an entanglement.

Yours faithfully,
BRISTOL,
Le Formentor,
Avenue Princesse Grace,
Monte Carlo,
Principality of Monaco.
March 19.

The Pencoat interview

From Mr Peter Hardiman-Scott
Sir, Sir Harold Wilson is quoted in *The Times* today (March 30) as saying that the Director General of the BBC approached me and asked me if I would see two BBC researchers, Messrs Penrose and Courtoir. This does not quite correspond with my own recollection, or with the record that I kept at the time, that the Director General then the Director General, Sir Charles Curran.

Early in May, 1976, Messrs Penrose and Courtoir offered to the BBC material which seemed to support the rebel government's public allegations that South African interests had been active in trying to discredit some British politicians. They claim to have shown the material to Sir Harold, who had asked for an assurance that they were working with proper authority for the BBC, and he wanted that assurance from the Director General himself. The BBC accordingly agreed to go to see Sir Harold, and contact was made through the intermediary of Penrose and Courtoir. I had intended to accompany Sir Charles, and he and I were supposed to have been long accompanied by Penrose and Courtoir. I do not, of course, know whether this was at Sir Harold's instruction. There is an account of that meeting in *The Pencoat File*, and I have no reason to doubt its accuracy.

The Pope and birth control

From Father Arthur McCormack
Sir, I was rather shocked that Dom Bernard Orchard, OSB, should have written as he did (March 14) in reply to the article on March 9 by Clifford Longley on the Pope and birth control. The particular point I want to single out is his remark (in referring to Longley's argument as "feeble and irrelevant" about overpopulation) that "the Pope means" (my italics). This showed a frivolous lack of knowledge and concern for one of the greatest issues of our age that was embarrassing to one who respects Fr Orchard as a distinguished biblical expert of world-wide renown and meticulous scholarship.

Incidentally, over 80 per cent of the populations of the Third World live in countries which have population programmes including contraception for the reduction of rates of population growth. This shows the statement of Fr Orchard that "contraception has already been rejected by the Third World", to be rather inaccurate.

Yours,
ARTHUR MCCORMACK,
Population and Development Office,
Via della Conciliazione 51,
00193 Roma, Italy.

Equality battles still to be won

From Mr W. J. Hopper, MEP for Greater Manchester West (Conservative)

Sir, The statement by 364 economists is amazing. It says that "there are alternative policies". Presumably workable policies. What a wonderful academic supermarket these economists live in, where more than one workable policy can be lifted off the shelf.

The practical man is puzzled. If workable policies are available, why did the distinguished former Chief Economic Adviser not apply them when they held sway? Or are we in trouble now because they did apply them? And why do they not close them now? One suspects there are 364 different opinions about policy, whence the notable silence on this point.

HM Treasury is seeking to apply, in most difficult circumstances, a balanced economic policy in which control of the money supply is one element among others. Other elements are the need for fiscal discipline, the maintenance of the high level of productive investment in the public and private sectors and above all, avoidance of a situation where HM Government pays the wages of its employees out of the proceeds of borrowing. Not easy to achieve, but we shall overcome. The danger arising from the statement is that it will lead to calls from the untrained for fiscal stimulation which will end in renewed inflation and yet higher unemployment.

Yours faithfully,
W. J. HOPPER,
15 Chesham Villas, W11,
March 30.

From Mrs William Firth

Sir, The fact that 364 of Britain's leading academic economists, including no fewer than five previous advisers to the Government of the day, have attacked the Government's economic policies, has finally convinced me (and I suspect thousands of others) that Mrs Thatcher must be right.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM FIRTH,
112 Preston Old Road,
Blackpool,
Lancashire.
March 30.

voluntarily to prevent the certain possibility of being executed or incarcerated by the revolutionaries. 3. There are more refugees Albanians outside Albania than still in the country, which is dominated by a special breed of communism, all of its own.

The gold when released, after an amount is deducted to cover any claim including one for £800,000 by the British Government, should be released to the administration of King Leka and his legal government, who may be prepared to do this. The rebel government in Albania. That deal could be one backed by world confidence to create industry and agricultural activity in Albania, which at the present exerts only a bare subsistence return—and gets a little bit of help from whatever main Communist country it can do so, without an entanglement.

Yours faithfully,
BRISTOL,
Le Formentor,
Avenue Princesse Grace,
Monte Carlo,
Principality of Monaco.
March 19.

I am not aware—except perhaps on a social occasion—that Sir Charles ever went to see Sir Harold again on this matter, but on August 6, 1976, he did write to Sir Harold, with a letter to Sir Harold, and privately and confidentially indicated that the BBC's links with Penrose and Courtoir were about to be severed because they had declined to sign a contract with the BBC in the terms that the BBC demanded—namely, the total editorial control over all their material.

Yours etc,
PETER HARDIMAN-SCOTT,
4 Butchers Lane,
Bosford,
Cheshire,
Euxine,
March 30.

Social Democrat policies

From Mr J. R. I. King
Sir, "Most of the policies which they [the Social Democrats] put forward in their 12-point programme yesterday are ones which we as a responsible party have long supported" (*The Times*, March 27).

"This [the Social Democrats' stand] is a mix of commitments close to that which this paper has advocated over the years" (*The Guardian*, March 27).

All things to all editors?

Yours faithfully,
J. R. I. KING,
18 Kildbrooke Park Road,
Blackheath, SE3.

Pass with honours

From Chester Herald of Arms
Sir, I do agree with Mr Nightingale (March 25) that the inclusion of the signature and coat of arms of the Foreign Secretary in our new burgundy-coloured passports would add a comforting personal touch. I would mention, however, that the arms borne by the present Foreign Secretary are those of Smith (his paternal ancestors) rather than Carrington, though they would be no less welcome for that.

What a relief that the royal arms are to be retained and that your leading article of March 21 calls them by their proper name. I winced when a certain noble lord who represents us in the European Parliament described them in a recent radio interview as the royal crest. Surely he should have learnt in his youth at Harrow that the crest is the topmost part of a coat of arms, like the crest of a bird, a hill or a wave. It is not the whole coat of arms and, as it happens, the version of the royal arms on the present passport contains no crest at all.

Yours faithfully,
UBERT CRESSHYRE,
College of Arms,
Queen Victoria Street, EC4.

Equality battles still to be won

From Mrs Michael Foot

Your correspondents from Dulwich (March 25) who wish to abolish the Equal Opportunities Commission, mainly because they have done well without its assistance, join the ranks of self-satisfied blacklegs. These blacklegs have played the women's movement ever since George Eliot, feeling no need of a vote, refused to sign the petition for women's suffrage, unlike Florence Nightingale, Josephine Butler and many more of her eminent contemporaries.

The existence of the EOC, say the correspondents, "is counter-productive, increasing animosities at a time when job opportunities are diminishing. Feminist demands increase animosities whatever the prevailing conditions, as they did when women fought for the right of married mothers to become legal guardians of their own children, or the right of wives to ownership of the money they earned, for the right to prevent unqualified midwives from delivering babies, for the right of equality in the divorce laws, for the right of women to sit on juries, and much else besides."

Unemployment makes no difference to the injustice of preventing women from engaging in particular occupations simply because they are children, or the right of women to sit on juries, and much else besides. Unemployment makes no difference to the injustice of preventing women from engaging in particular occupations simply because they are children, or the right of women to sit on juries, and much else besides.

On childcare, the correspondents profess to believe that the EOC has as its objective a takeover by the state of the care of all children. They say that this policy is given "a nightmarish realism" by the EOC's declared interest in bringing out of the home and into the labour market even those women who have hitherto shown no such inclination. Leaving aside the absurdity of suggesting that the commission is plotting a takeover by the state of the care of all children, the comfortably Mised ladies of Dulwich clearly have no knowledge of life in some of our massive council estates. They have never heard of the terms commonly used by better workers "tower-block neurosis" and "council-estate sickness". A mother cut off from the ground with an infant and older child eager to run about, but having no space within calling distance other than a landing and a lift, is often put to her wits and to cope. Unable to employ an au pair, removed from friendly neighbours, far away from a street market—the bazaar of planners—and other feminine delights and facilities, she loses zest for life.

To go away for a few hours a day on her own into a part-time job is for her a very pressing necessity, whether she knows it or not, especially if her husband, understandably depressed by conditions at home, spends most of his evenings at the pub, and her money out with his workmates.

Indeed the battery-ben housing, inhuman slab-blocks, monotonous estates and most city developments, whether perpetrated by Tory or Labour councils, or private developers, stand supreme both as symbols and indictments of the dominance of harsh, dictatorial masculine values. Indirectly, the commission exists to assist in introducing a balance of softer feminine values into all our organizations. The EOC's work may not be entirely satisfactory, but so far from wishing the commission to be abolished, many of us would like it to be strengthened and given a fresh impetus and publicity, maybe with assistance from a national figure with an undisputed gift for leadership.

Yours faithfully,
JILL CRAIGIE,
66 Pilgrim's Lane, NW3.

Repairing the law

From Mr W. J. Blair
Sir, The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings is indeed to be congratulated on obtaining a conviction in the Lichfield almshouse case (Report, March 27). But how derisory the penalty! For a fine of £1,000 (the statutory maximum) and £2,000 costs, the guilty owner has cleared his site and avoided a repairs bill of £14,000. The Town and Country Planning Act and the Ancient Monuments Act will never protect buildings effectively until financial incentives to defy the law are outlawed by realistic fines or imprisonment.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BLAIR,
Brasenose College,
Oxford.
March 27.

Worse than the disease

From Professor Dennis Nineham
Sir, In today's issue (March 27) my friend Mr Colin Haycraft expresses surprise that the expression "throwing out the baby with the bath water" has been traced no further back than to Bernard Shaw. According to Arthur Koestler in *The Sleepwalkers* (p. 245 and note 16) it is already to be found in Kepler. He used it in a motto prefixed to his *Terminorum Interpretationes*.

Yours faithfully,
D. E. NINEHAM,
University of Bristol,
(Department of Theology),
Royal Fort House,
Tyndall Avenue, Bristol.
March 27.

Bill of Rights call

From Mr N. G. Murray
Sir, May I add a plea in support of Mr Geoffrey Rippon (March 30)? Article 13 of the European Convention of Human Rights provides: "Everyone whose rights and freedoms as set forth in this convention are violated shall have an effective remedy before a national authority" (my italics).

Can we not now belatedly satisfy this obligation?

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL MURRAY,
2 Paper Buildings,
Temple, EC4.
March 30.

Equality battles still to be won

From Miss P. M. Lewis and others

Sir, As female nuclear physicists we strongly disagree with the views of Mrs Joanna Bogle and friends (March 25) regarding the Equal Opportunities Commission. In fact we would like to see the expansion of this body.

There are very few women in physics, right from O-level classes to chiefs of industry and professors in universities. The EOC has obviously much work to do in schools to encourage girls to do science at an early age and rectify this ridiculous situation. It irritates us to be continually told how "unusual" we are—we are not. We were lucky in having enlightened parents, teachers and university professors throughout our careers.

It would seem that Mrs Bogle et al are confusing the ideas of equality and identity. However, equal opportunity is a far cry from "mixity".

Your faithfully,
P. M. LEWIS,
E. E. LAIRD,
G. M. HAYES,
F. KEAZAIE,
J. M. BARNWELL,
Department of Physics,
University of Birmingham,
PO Box 363,
Birmingham,
March 30.

From Mrs Pamela Anderson

Sir, I give university lectures in women's studies in a rural Somerset town, with a class of over 30 women (and a waiting list) whose ages vary from early twenties to the middle sixties and who come from an amazing cross-section of backgrounds in country life. I can only assume that your correspondents and her workmates (March 25) live in a totally different world.

We as a group have found that many things have changed for the better with the help of the Equal Opportunities Commission, and that we have achieved a better working life and better home life for men and women have opened up, eg husband-and-wife contract-milking teams, part-time women doctors and part-time office managers.

Teachers and others of us in the country all want to see our girls having more educational opportunities and a further share in the continuing changes which are today irreversibly taking place. We all believe (and we all have reasonable evidence to support our belief) that equality of opportunity makes for a better family life and for stabler marriages. I suggest that your poor lady correspondents should meet some of the real grass-roots people who have benefited and who are now endeavouring to benefit from the work of the EOC.

Yours faithfully,
PAMELA ANDERSON,
Ferndale,
South Street, Castle Cary,
Somerset.

From Dr Rosalie Silverstone

Sir, When half our members of Parliament are women and when half the fathers of this country share the upbringing of their children with mothers, then we shall have no need for an Equal Opportunities Commission (letters, March 25). Only then will men and women be equally free to use their "own natural talents" for the benefit of the whole community.

Yours faithfully,
ROSALIE SILVERSTONE,
The Fawcett Society,
Parnell House,
25 Wilton Road, SW1.

Yorkshire's achievement

From Mr Christopher Fry
Sir, What Dorothy Tutin said about the work of Yorkshire Television in your columns (March 26) was true in every part. The encouragement of writers, new and established, with assistance and encouragement equally, has been splendid and the handling of the plays, in casting, direction and design, of a kind to make any author proud.

It would be a backward step indeed for television generally if the franchise for Yorkshire could not be extended.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER FRY,
The Loft,
East Dean,
Chichester,
Sussex.
March 27.

Iceberg of the tip

From Lord Kingsdale and Ringrose
Sir, Mr Levin's article in *The Times* today (March 19) on the subject of tipping is most revealing. It is, of course, only the middle class which worries about tipping: the lower classes, unthinking, do not tip; the upper classes, unquestioning, do. We can subdivide even further: the lower middle classes, battered by their awareness of their own origins, grumblingly under-tip; the upper middle classes, conceiving that thereby they may appear better, ostentatiously over-tip; the middle middle classes, endlessly explanatory and tiresomely discursive, award a 12 per cent gratuity. The graceless Americans, quite out of their depths where the niceties of social distinction are concerned, invariably get both tip and recipient wrong: the Australians are the most generous and indiscriminating of all tippers.

These observations are based on my own experiences as a Safari Park driver, when I accepted, without any feeling of inferiority, all tips that came my way, and was offended only when some pompous ass assumed that he should not tip me. Incidentally, I spent all my tips on drink.

I remain, Sir, yours degradedly,
KINGSDALE,
Orchard Villa,
Upton Noble,
Somerset,
March 19.



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
March 31: The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron of the Conference on Human Values, this morning attended the opening of the Conference at Queen Elizabeth Hall, London.

Mr. Richard Davies was in attendance.

His Excellency the Netherlands Ambassador and Madame Fack, His Excellency the High Commissioner for Guyana and Mrs. Grant, the Earl and Countess of Crawford and Balcarres, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Lady Howe, the Hon. Richard and Mrs. Butler, the Hon. Robert and Mrs. Dore, the Hon. Michael and Mrs. Perera, the Hon. and Mrs. Richard Rogers have arrived at Windsor Castle.

Mr. John Duggdale has succeeded Lady Abel Smith as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 31: The Duke of Gloucester, Patron of the British Medical Society, attended a Reception at Kensington Palace, London, this evening.

Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Bland was in attendance.

Princess Alexandra will visit Rochdale on May 13 to open the Town Lane Project, the newly restored birthplace of the Co-operative Movement, and will visit St. Luke's Church of England Primary School at Heywood.

The Countess of Cathness gave birth to a son on March 26, in Oxford.

Lady Barnstone and family wish to thank friends and business associates of Lord Barnstone for all their flowers, donations to charity and messages of condolence.

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Lord Barnstone will be held in St. Paul's Cathedral on Friday, May 1, at noon.

The Princess League will hold a commemorative service to mark the centenary of the death of Prince Albert, Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, on Thursday, April 13, at 5 p.m. at St. Margaret's, Westminster. No tickets will be required.

Birthdays today
Viscount Bridgeman, 85; Major-General R. C. Hamilton, 75; Sir Nicholas Henslow, 70; Sir Nicholas Henderson, 62; Mr. Tom Jackson, 56; Baroness MacFarlane of Llandaff, 53; Mr. Steve Rake, 50; the Earl of Strathmore, 78.

Bishop's sabbatical
The Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev. David Sheppard, is taking a four-month sabbatical leave from Easter Monday for a holiday and to write a book on the church in cities.

Forthcoming marriages

Lord Balgownie
The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of The Earl and Countess of Leven and Melville, of Glenferness House, Melville, Nairn, and Julia Clare, younger daughter of Colonel and Mrs. I. R. Critchley, of Lindores, Muthill, Perthshire.

Dr. O. Debarge
The engagement is announced between Dr. O. Debarge, son of the late M. Debarge and Mme. Debarge, of Paris, and Robina, daughter of Lord Rotherwick and the late Lady Rotherwick, of Cornbury Park, Charlbury, Oxfordshire.

Mr. A. K. Cameron
The engagement is announced between Mr. A. K. Cameron, son of the late M. Debarge and Mme. Debarge, of Paris, and Robina, daughter of Lord Rotherwick and the late Lady Rotherwick, of Cornbury Park, Charlbury, Oxfordshire.

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Marriage

Mr. D. T. King
The engagement is announced between David Thomas, second son of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. King, of Londonderry, Northern Ireland, and Eleanor Warwick, only daughter of Mr. S. W. G. Hamilton and Mrs. G. A. Fox, both of Harrogate, Yorkshire.

Mr. K. J. M. Madocks
The engagement is announced between K. J. M. Madocks, elder son of the late Captain L. A. H. Wright, Royal Navy (ret.) and Mrs. Wright, of Saffrey Park, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, and Dana Sedgwick, fourth daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Gibbs, of Creton Lodge, Northampton.

Mr. M. O. McMillan
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OBITUARY

ENID BAGNOLD

Author of 'National Velvet'

Enid Bagnold (Lady Jones) CBE, the writer, died yesterday in London at the age of 91.

As a writer, Enid Bagnold's success was perhaps greater with the public than with critics, because versatility and craftsmanship made her suspect to the latter, while ensuring her several large audiences—on the stage, in the cinema, and in the book.

Before her marriage, Enid Bagnold was already known as a writer. Her *Diary Without Dates* (1917), about her nursing experiences, made national headlines and secured her immediate dismissal. She then wrote an ambulance in France which helped her to write *The Happy Foreigner* (1920), a documentary novel of the VAD during the war.

Her next novel, *The Squire* (1928), was the least popular of her novels, perhaps because the most personal and the least in line with her general experience. It also developed her role as a writer, as a great lady and her views on the imperfect independence of women from men. Her final novel, *The Love and the Enemy* (1951), combining her own life with that of Lady Diana Cooper, celebrated a style of existence which antagonized post-war reviewers as much as it delighted a public tired of earnestness.

Enid Bagnold told the story of her life in the marvellous *Autobiography* (1950), written at the age of 80 with the vigour of 18. In Chelsea she found Gaudier-Brzeska (who sculpted her head), Sickert (who drew her), Lovell Fraser and Ralph Hodgson. Through the hedge on Shooter's Hill she saw the brilliant, wealthy and noble Roman-ian brothers Bibesco.

Sir Roderick Jones, then head of Reuters, married her in 1920, and imperiously whisked her off on a honeymoon in Canada. As a wife she played hostess to him, and in return demanded three hours of writing time each day, which was spent in a tiny sound-proofed room, devised for her by Lutyens.

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Sir Roderick Jones, then head of Reuters, married her in 1920, and imperiously whisked her off on a honeymoon in Canada. As a wife she played hostess to him, and in return demanded three hours of writing time each day, which was spent in a tiny sound-proofed room, devised for her by Lutyens.

Before her marriage, Enid Bagnold was already known as a writer. Her *Diary Without Dates* (1917), about her nursing experiences, made national headlines and secured her immediate dismissal. She then wrote an ambulance in France which helped her to write *The Happy Foreigner* (1920), a documentary novel of the VAD during the war.

Her next novel, *The Squire* (1928), was the least popular of her novels, perhaps because the most personal and the least in line with her general experience. It also developed her role as a writer, as a great lady and her views on the imperfect independence of women from men. Her final novel, *The Love and the Enemy* (1951), combining her own life with that of Lady Diana Cooper, celebrated a style of existence which antagonized post-war reviewers as much as it delighted a public tired of earnestness.

What went
wrong
in Belgium,
page 19

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

50% increase in the price of oil

King & Co
Industrial &
Commercial Property
Tel: 01-236 3000 Telex: 885485

Stock markets
FT Index 528.1, up 9.3
FT Gilts 69.84, up 0.22

Sterling
\$2.2445, up 110 cents
Index 100.1, down 0.5

Dollar
Index 99.8, down 0.7
DM 2.1055, down 78 pts

Gold
\$507.50, down \$15

Money
3-month sterling 12 1/4-12 1/2
6-month Euro \$ 14 1/4-14 1/2
6-month Euro \$ 14 1/4-14 1/2

IN BRIEF

Judge may give ruling on Savoy meetings

A decision of whether Trusthouse Forte can call meetings of both classes of Savoy shareholders in an attempt to put its 55m takeover bid to the vote, will almost certainly be made by a judge.

The two sides are due to appear before the High Court Registrar on Friday, but are expected to argue that the decision, involving a ruling on Section 206 of the 1948 Companies Act should be made by a judge.

It is the first time a company has pursued this section as part of a Scheme of Arrangement, to gain control of another group.

Meanwhile, Savoy are working on a written submission to the Office of Fair Trading urging the Secretary of State to refer the bid to the Monopolies Commission.

Petrol price warning

British Petroleum says it would like to add another 4p to the price of a gallon of its BP and National petrol to recoup the losses being made on its refinery and marketing operations. Last week BP raised prices by 4p.

Shipyards pay offer

Leaders of 70,000 shipyard workers are to recommend acceptance of a pay offer amounting to a 7.5 per cent increase. Skilled workers would get £7.50 a week more on basic pay and unskilled workers another £5.60.

Ansett loan undecided

The United States Export-Import Bank's board has postponed making a decision on a loan for \$250m (£125m) to Ansett Airlines of Australia, a company controlled by Mr Rupert Murdoch, to be used for the purchase of Boeing aircraft. No public explanation was given.

BPC deal cleared

Mr Robert Maxwell's Pergamon Press has been given Department of Trade approval for the proposed acquisition of a controlling interest in BPC. Mr John Biffen, Trade Secretary said that the deal, which involves a £10m injection of new capital, will not be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Belgian franc aid

A three-point increase in the Belgian Bank Rate and announcement of European Monetary System support lifted the Belgian franc off its permitted floor against the Deutschmark. The Belgian franc also rose against the dollar.

Belgian crisis, page 19

French glass sale

BSN, the French food and glass conglomerate, is to sell off five of the capital of its Belgian and Dutch glass-making subsidiaries to the Asahi Company of Japan for around Fr 90m (£25.7m).

Wall Street higher

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 1,003.87, up 1.71 on Wall Street yesterday. The S&P 500 index was 228.52 while the E&S&P was 547.420.

Contracts finally placed for £270m nuclear reactors

By Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

Firm orders worth £270m for the main nuclear components of the British-designed advanced gas-cooled reactors to be built at Heysham in Lancashire and Torness in East Lothian were finally placed yesterday.

The bulk of the £270m of work on the steam boilers for stations goes to Northern Engineering Industries, with sub-contractors Babcock Power Engineering, Howden receives the £70m contract for gas circulators provide the reactor with essential cooling mechanism.

Placing of the contracts ends months of uncertainty and argument between the Central Electricity Generating Board and the partly Government-owned National Nuclear Corporation.

Agreement on working relationships between the CEBG, its sister authority, the South of Scotland Electricity Board and NNC was close in November but contractual difficulties delayed the final placing of contracts.

Increasingly the manufacturers have been worried that delays over the final orders would hold up urgently-needed work from the shipyard.

The Government has been keen to set up the NNC as the main independent contractor for all nuclear stations in Britain. Mr Denis Rooney, a senior director of BICC International, was last year appointed as its executive chairman and he was encouraged to reorganise what had been a complicated three-tier structure into a straightforward group run on normal company lines.

This was achieved, but difficulties arose over NNC's financial ability to take on the responsibility for placing the main contracts for the nuclear components of the two AGRs.

With a capitalization of only £10m legal worries developed over the relationship between the electricity authorities who were the customers, the NNC who would be main contractor for the nuclear components, and the manufacturers, who would prepare the equipment.

The CEBG pressed for NNC to accept a role as its agent, NNC, however, was determined to retain full management responsibility.

It is understood a compromise has been reached which will not affect NNC's ability to gain full management responsibility for future stations.

The Government had intended that the NNC should have responsibility only for the nuclear components of the two AGRs, with civil engineering and the orders for the conventional turbogenerator plant being placed and controlled by the electricity authorities.

NNC, however, would take full control of the building of the whole of the first American-designed pressurized water reactor, which is expected to be ordered for a site in Sizewell, Suffolk, in 1983.

The placing of the component contracts yesterday means that a satisfactory agency arrangement has been agreed. All main contracts for the two stations have now been placed. NEI and GEC gained the turbogenerator contracts last year. Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons and Taylor Woodrow were given orders for the construction work at the same time.

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Bank cautious on output prospects

By John Whitmore
Financial Correspondent

A further reduction in the pace of inflation remains the key to securing economic expansion over the longer term, says the Bank of England in the latest edition of its Quarterly Bulletin.

In an assessment of the economy that notably lacks the confident predictions of imminent recovery expressed by some Treasury ministers, the Bank takes an extremely cautious view of the prospects for improved output.

On the positive side, the bulletin does see some benefit accruing from a progressively slower rate of devaluing the sterling. It says that a slowdown in the rate at which demand is met out of stocks would, as in previous cycles, lead to a recovery in output.

But the bulletin makes it clear that there is considerable uncertainty surrounding the prospects for total demand this year. In particular, it sees domestic investment, foreign trade and domestic consumption all tending to exercise a con-

trastory influence on the economy. However, it sees unemployment rising more slowly.

The bulletin is especially concerned about the continued decline in the United Kingdom's international competitiveness. It says that the substantial erosion of competitiveness in recent years is likely to have further delayed effects on both exports and imports.

To essential, therefore, to lower the rate of domestic inflation still further. Although the pace of inflation has already moderated, the prospects for recovery would be much brighter if inflation was clearly below the international average.

The bulletin recognizes that Britain has a long way to go before it is ahead of its competitors in containing costs.

It also recognizes that the battle against inflation may have to be continued without the benefit of a rising exchange rate. This makes it even more essential to secure still greater moderation in pay demands.

The bulletin rejects the idea of a falling exchange rate as an easy way to restoring international competitiveness. The

problem then would be to prevent any resulting gain in competitiveness from being eroded by a faster rise in costs.

One area in particular in which the bulletin takes a decidedly less sanguine view than that of Treasury ministers is in the behaviour of the savings ratio this year.

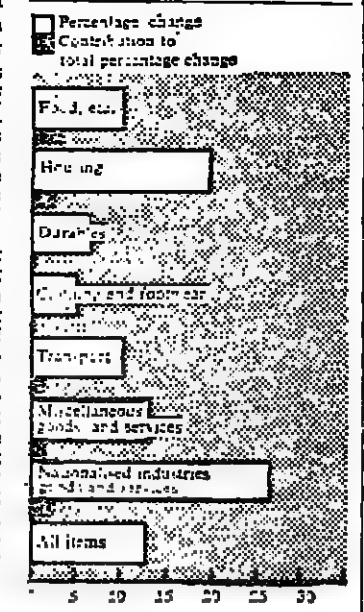
Although the bulletin foresees some fall in the ratio, it does not see this fall as likely to be sufficient to offset the effects of tax increases on the level of consumer spending.

Commenting on the last Budget, the bulletin says that the effect of tax increases on activity will be offset in part by the stimulating effect of lower interest rates and possibly of a lower exchange rate.

It describes the PSBR projection as financially strict. It says that the thrust of the policy would be somewhat eased as a result of monetary steps, whose aim is to bring about a further reduction in the rate of inflation while holding out the prospect of lower interest rates.

Manufacturing decline, page 18

HOW LEADING SECTORS CONTRIBUTED TO INFLATION (As measured by the retail price index January 80-81)



Banks delay Polish loan decision

By Michael Prest

International banks are reluctant to reschedule Poland's huge debt obligation or make new debt obligations, say sources close to the banks.

The talks are expected to continue today at Lloyds Bank. The Western banks have formed a task force of 20 banks to negotiate but to coordinate information among the creditor banks in 12 countries.

A statement issued by Chase Manhattan, which has been coordinating activity so far, said: "The banks represented at today's meeting emphasized that although the situation is difficult, the possibility of a satisfactory solution can only be achieved through calm and restrained discussion taking place on a continuous basis."

Although today's meeting could produce the technical outline of a rescheduling agreement, a full decision cannot be made before April 8 when the inter-governmental talks in Paris on Poland's request for a rescheduling of its \$4,400m of official debts and \$3,400m in export credits are expected to begin.

Poland has no foreign currency with which to meet its obligations and bankers are wary of declaring the country in default.

40 Western banks and the Bank Handlowy, Poland's foreign trade bank, looked at possible ways of refinancing these debts.

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Barclays going ahead with United States loan issue venture

By Ronald Pullen

Barclays Bank confirmed yesterday that it is going ahead with its first public issue in the United States capital markets.

Britain's largest clearing bank is hoping to raise \$125m (£50m) through the issue of 25-year guaranteed capital notes.

The loan issue, which is being managed by Wall Street investment bankers Goldman Sachs, is expected to be made in late April or early May. The money will be used for the "development and expansion of the business of Barclays."

The bank has been steadily increasing its involvement in the United States banking and financial spheres in recent years and now controls assets of \$9,000m in North America.

A feature of the move into the United States capital markets is likely to be the registration statement Barclays has had to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. This is 100 pages long and will contain extensive information about the bank's activities and recent trading performance, contains much financial information Barclays has not been prepared to disclose until now.

Lawyers have advised Barclays that it would be a criminal offence to distribute the document in full in the United Kingdom because it counts as a prospectus and is not registered in the United Kingdom. But some of the details are being communicated to shareholders through press advertisements.

Perhaps the most interesting new information relates to the fuller breakdown of profits by geographical area of operation and figures on the bank's interest margins and spreads.

But the registration statement still falls short of providing all the information United States banks disclose. There is, for example, no breakdown of the maturity structure of deposits. One description of the document yesterday was that it was no more than a "constructive compliance with the guidelines of the SEC."

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Telecom to lose rights on PABXs

By Bill Johnstone

British Telecom is to lose its exclusive right to maintain all digital private automatic branch exchanges (PABXs). In a major policy switch, the Government announced yesterday it would allow the private sector to compete for the Telecom work.

The decision comes after growing opposition among Conservative backbenchers to the British Telecom monopoly.

The timing of the announcement may have been to diffuse the controversy which may arise in the Commons today when the Telecommunications Bill returns for its report stage.

Ever since last July when Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, outlined proposals for British Telecom, the Government has been under pressure to relax its monopoly. At that time it had decided to allow British Telecom to maintain all PABXs even if they were supplied by the private sector.

This angered private suppliers and Telecom customers, many of whom embarked on a campaign to reverse the decision.

The Government's compromise is to allow digital PABXs installed after the Telecommunications Bill becomes law to be maintained privately. Contractors will have to be approved to ensure their technical competence and their ability to offer a national service.

British Telecom will retain the right to review programmes for control software and to check equipment on its connection to the network as well as during operation. Non-digital PABXs will remain the exclusive responsibility of British Telecom.

Plessey is to cut 425 of its 5,000 workforce. The job losses will be at Beeston, Nottinghamshire. Other workers are expected to be put on a shorter working week.

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The agreement with Fluor has been submitted to the federal district court in New York in accordance with a temporary restraining order issued on March 25, in connection with litigation between St Joe and Seagram.

Seagram announced a conditional \$45 a share offer for St Joe on March 11.

Fluor provided that Fluor would start its cash tender offer as soon as possible, but no later than April 6. Lehman Brothers Kuhn Loeb will be dealer manager.

Special meetings of stockholders of both companies would then be held to approve the merger and Special meetings of both boards would be held on or before April 5, to approve the merger and authorise execution of a definitive agreement.

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Steel losses 'will end next year'

By John Huxley

Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of British Steel, predicted yesterday that state-owned corporation would stop losing money next year. However, he added that present "bargain" prices would have to rise.

BSC lost almost £660m in the financial year which has just finished. Losses in the 1980-81 financial year should be kept to less than £320m, Mr MacGregor told a Commons Select Committee recently.

Speaking to the Foreign Press Association in London yesterday, he said British Steel should be out of the unprofitable period sometime in the calendar year 1982.

Earlier, he admitted that the steel industry was looking over the edge of the precipice and said something had to be done to bring European capacity in line with market demand. Existing overcapacity coinciding with a declining market had brought about a collapse of prices.

Mr MacGregor said that in most European countries political considerations had prevented governments from taking decisions about steel capacity cuts.

The result has been that the agony has been attenuated without being in any way diminished.

The European Commission had handed responsibility for reducing capacity to the producers themselves. Discussions on quota arrangements were difficult because of grievances over past arrangements, but some form of arrangement would be worked out.

"As a result, there will be a system which will contain steel production much more closely within the requirements of the market," Mr MacGregor said.

This would enable the industry to put up prices to more realistic levels. Buyers were getting steel at bargain prices.

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Institutions answer the call from Ansafone

By Andrew Goodrich-Clarke
Financial Editor

City institutions are backing the managers of Ansafone, the telephone answering equipment maker, in a new independent venture in the largest management "buy out" seen in Britain.

A total of £13.5m has been put up in the form of short and medium-term bank loans, loan stock, preference stock and equity to buy the company from Lord Grade's Associated Communications Corporation.

ACC had let it be known some time ago that it wished to sell Ansafone. Not only did it need to reduce debt after heavy losses on its film and record activities, but it also felt that Ansafone failed to fit in with its plans for the future.

The idea for the deal came from Mr James Sharman of Montagu Loeb Stanley, London stockbrokers. Having identified Ansafone as a company likely to be for sale, he approached Mr Roger Brooke, the former managing director of EMI, who had set up Canover Investments as a venture capital arm of the Electra group of investment trusts.

Together they approached Mr John Evans and Mr Michael Smith, the top managers of Ansafone. According to Mr Brooke it had not until then occurred to the management that they might be able to raise the sort of sum ACC wanted for the company.

Ansafone made profits of £1.5m on sales of £11.5m in 1979/80, although profits have fallen to about £1m in 1980/81.

This is the fourth buy-out deal arranged by Canover. Mr Brooke said: "On the whole, very few company chairmen of large groups realize that a sale to the management of a subsidiary is a feasible option when they want to get rid of an ill-fitting business."

Most of the finance for the purchase of Ansafone is coming from National Westminster Bank which agreed to take on its existing borrowing of £8m. A further £1 of medium-term bank lending has been provided.

The remaining £4.5m has come from the managers of Ansafone. Trust will hold an equity stake of below 15 per cent. Canover, clients of Montagu Loeb Stanley, and 13 City institutions.

These are Equity Capital for Industry, the largest, which is putting up some £900,000; Ansafone Investment Trust; County Bank; English Association Trust; Kleinwort Benson; Lloyds Bank; New Zealand Insurance; Norwich Union; Sharp Unquoted Midland Investments; Sun Life Assurance; Thompson Clive Investments and Thompson Clive Growth Companies Fund.

The chairman of the new Ansafone Corporation will be Mr Frank Rogers, chairman of East Midlands Allied Press and a longstanding consultant to the board of Plessey.

Ansafone employs 700 people in Britain and its total record has been good. There were, however, heavy losses a few years ago when it took large overseas fixed-price contracts for telephone answering equipment which turned out to be incompatible with the customers' systems.

Financial Editor, page 19

Government helps innovators seeking venture capital

The Government is to collaborate with 16 leading City institutions in a scheme to find venture capital for innovators of microprocessor based products and processes.

The Microprocessor Applications Project Joint Appraisal Scheme was launched in London yesterday by Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Information Technology, and is the latest move by the Department of Industry to increase awareness among businessmen of the potential of microprocessors.

It is estimated that about half the businesses in the United Kingdom are unaware of this potential.

The Microprocessor Applications Project has been providing 25 per cent of the costs of research and development of microprocessor schemes since 1978 and this grant will still be available to any applicant after the process being worked on has been approved.

Under the new joint appraisal scheme the Department of Industry will now be able to introduce the applicant to a number of institutions, for further funding.

Those taking part in the scheme are Barclays Bank, Brown Shipley Developments, Capital for Industry, Castle Finance, Charterhouse Development, Commercial Bank of Wales, County Bank, Hill Samuel & Co., Lazard Brothers & Co., Lloyds Bank, Midland Bank, National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), National Westminster Bank, Royal Bank of Scotland, Royal London Mutual Insurance Society, Technical Development Capital (TDC) and Industrial & Commercial Finance Corporation (ICFC).

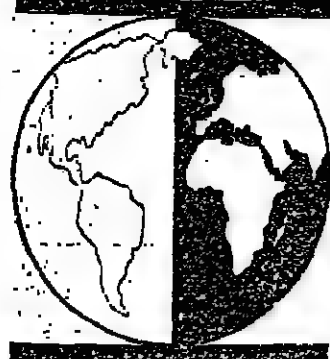
Under the new scheme, the Department of Industry will carry out its usual procedure for technical appraisal and, with the applicant's agreement, will present a copy of the assessment to one of the funding institutions.

The MAP scheme was set up three years ago with a budget of £55m. So far £28m has been allocated to 450 projects out of 1,100 applications, and this year £20m is expected to be assigned to projects.

Although the initial sum may be exhausted by the end of this year, Mr Baker was confident yesterday that extra money would become available.

The Department of Industry intends to spend about £250,000 taking five coaches of a British Rail train filled with micro-electric exhibits around the country to increase people's awareness of the technology. The train will leave Marylebone on May 6.

A report published last November by the Policy Studies Institute of London after an investigation into 90 companies in five different industrial areas covering domestic electrical appliances, heating and ventilating equipment, cars, testing equipment and toys and games was critical of the time the Department of Industry took



Tokyo trade surplus is reduced

Japan's February overall balance of payments surplus was revised downwards to \$656m (about £292m) from a preliminary \$660m surplus, the finance ministry said.

February's current account deficit, revised, was \$207m, up from a preliminary \$200m deficit.

The revised February balance of payments surplus compared with a \$46m January deficit and a \$840 deficit a year earlier.

The revised current account deficit compared with a \$2,590m January deficit and a \$1,250m deficit a year earlier.

Chrysler repays \$71m

Chrysler Corporation is to make a \$71m (about £31m) payment to its lenders on Tuesday as scheduled. The car company said that its cash flow from sales of cars and trucks in the past few weeks had been more than adequate for it to make the first of four loan repayments.

Silver inquiry delay

A federal judge in Dallas has ordered a 10-day delay in the United States government's investigation into the activities of Mr Nelson Bunker Hunt and his brother in the silver futures market.

Defence order

The French Defence Ministry said it plans to order 5,000 four-wheel-drive vehicles from Automobiles Citroën for delivery next year.

Libya lifts Malta ban

Libya is lifting its ban on some imports from Malta from today "in solidarity with the Maltese people on the occasion of the second anniversary of the evacuation of British forces from the island". The Libyans stopped importing Maltese goods after a dispute over offshore oil exploration rights on the Medina Bank.

Australian economy

The increasing strength of the Australian economy will lead to faster-than-expected growth in the fiscal year ending in June, now forecast at between 4 and 4.5 per cent against the 3.5 per cent given in the Budget last August.

Italy's jobless up

Italy's unemployment rose to 7.7 per cent in January from 7.6 per cent in October but was unchanged from a year earlier. There were 1,717,000 jobless out of a total workforce of 22,377,000.

£625m Krupp orders

Incumbent orders in the Krupp World Group's plant-making sector totalled DM3,000m (£625m) in the first quarter of this year compared with DM2,300m in the corresponding 1980 period.

Steel imports restart

The Italian Government has ordered the reopening of customs clearance facilities for steel imports at eight ports, partially reversing measures taken last November to protect Italian producers against competition in the home market.

Metal workers strike

Finland's 150,000 metal workers have begun a two-day strike aimed at speeding up talks with employers on a new pay and conditions settlement.

GM to cut staff

General Motors of America is to cut its white-collar workforce by as many as 27,000 workers over the next few months, the second round of cuts in less than a year.

US building contracts

New United States building contracts were worth \$10,400m in February, the same as in January but up 2 per cent from a year earlier.

French output

French production of private cars and light vans declined 21.7 per cent in February to 217,768 units from 275,907 in the same 1980 period, the French Auto Manufacturers Association said.

PERSONAL INCOME EXPENDITURE AND SAVINGS (Seasonally adjusted)

	Total personal income	Personal expenditure	Personal savings
	(£m)	(£m)	(£m)
1976	142,828	127	77,076
1977	167,362	141	82,845
1978	186,838	153	93,447
1979	207,740	167	104,244
1980	228,740	171	115,244
1981	249,740	175	126,244
1982	270,740	179	137,244
1983	291,740	183	148,244
1984	312,740	187	159,244
1985	333,740	191	170,244
1986	354,740	195	181,244
1987	375,740	199	192,244
1988	396,740	203	203,244
1989	417,740	207	214,244
1990	438,740	211	225,244
1991	459,740	215	236,244
1992	480,740	219	247,244
1993	501,740	223	258,244
1994	522,740	227	269,244
1995	543,740	231	280,244
1996	564,740	235	291,244
1997	585,740	239	302,244
1998	606,740	243	313,244
1999	627,740	247	324,244
2000	648,740	251	335,244
2001	669,740	255	346,244
2002	690,740	259	357,244
2003	711,740	263	368,244
2004	732,740	267	379,244
2005	753,740	271	390,244
2006	774,740	275	401,244
2007	795,740	279	412,244
2008	816,740	283	423,244
2009	837,740	287	434,244
2010	858,740	291	445,244
2011	879,740	295	456,244
2012	900,740	299	467,244
2013	921,740	303	478,244
2014	942,740	307	489,244
2015	963,740	311	500,244
2016	984,740	315	511,244
2017	1,005,740	319	522,244
2018	1,026,740	323	533,244
2019	1,047,740	327	544,244
2020	1,068,740	331	555,244
2021	1,089,740	335	566,244
2022	1,110,740	339	577,244
2023	1,131,740	343	588,244
2024	1,152,740	347	599,244
2025	1,173,740	351	610,244
2026	1,194,740	355	621,244
2027	1,215,740	359	632,244
2028	1,236,740	363	643,244
2029	1,257,740	367	654,244
2030	1,278,740	371	665,244

(1) Equals total personal income before tax less taxes on income, national insurance contributions and transfers abroad.

(2) Personal disposable income less taxes on income, national insurance contributions and transfers abroad.

(3) Personal disposable income less taxes on income, national insurance contributions and transfers abroad.

Three societies to discuss link-up as movement's trading problems grow

The Co-op feels the urge to merge

Mergers within the co-operative movement are growing at such a pace that by the end of May, when the Co-operative Congress, the movement's annual "parliament", meets in Edinburgh, the number of societies will have slid 12 months from 191 to probably around 170. Another prospective merger involving two north Suffolk societies was announced yesterday and talks involving three others are expected this month.

Talks on April 15 concerning Royal Arsenal, South Suburban and Invicta, whose combined South-east trading areas lie south of the Thames, could lead to the biggest merger since the London Co-operative Society joined the Manchester-based Co-operative Retail Services (CRS) earlier this year. The combined annual turnover of the three would be around £300m, creating the second largest retail organization in the movement, and CRS whose turnover since merging with the troubled London Society has risen to £800m a year.

London's merger with CRS, which started life as a rescue service for societies in difficulties and is now one of the most efficient organizations within the movement, was subsequently described as a turning point for the Co-operative movement by Mr Lloyd Wilkinson, general secretary of the Co-operative Union.

If the exploratory talks among the three South-east societies reach no conclusion, two of them might be forced to look to a

SOCIETY PERFORMANCE COMPARED

	1979 Total turnover	1978 Total turnover	% change
National average	12.8	12.8	0.0
London	227.5	7.3	-0.9
North Eastern	153.6	11.1	1.1
Royal Arsenal	151	8.8	-1.1
Birmingham	105	7.5	0.1
Greater Lancashire	86	5.8	0.6
North Midland	76.7	14.5	4
North West	75.8	14.1	1.3
South Suburban	50.2	7.8	0.2
Invicta	40	9.1	1.7

Source: Co-operative Statistics

CRS link. That was the prediction from Mr Robert Hammond, of the Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers (Usdaw).

He said: "We believe that they cannot continue to exist as feeble independent societies. That is why we are pressing for a fresh look at the concept of a South-east society." Eventually the only alternative for Royal Arsenal and South Suburban would be to join CRS.

The societies are also facing trading

problems which have become typical of the Co-operative movement. Although the movement has had a 7 per cent share of the retail market, many in the movement would not be surprised if annual returns show some erosion of market share after the intense competition from the private sector multiples' drive into supermarkets.

Royal Arsenal has had two years of trading losses which have probably continued in the past 12 months but losses—covered at least twice over by conservatively-valued fixed assets—are only a third as large as those that were being carried by the London Society. In 1979 Royal Arsenal had a £1.6m loss compared with the £2m loss at the London Society.

Royal Arsenal says that, after the closure of 41 uneconomic outlets last year, its closure programme is ended. South Suburban is still going through a rationalization programme.

The three have moved some way towards more economical shared operations with a Kent federation that has rationalized baking, milk and laundry activities. Big is not necessarily proving best within the movement. But smaller societies, some particularly efficient, are also being driven to merge to improve their chances of developing new stores.

This is the rationale behind merger talks now started between the Lowestoft Co-operative Society and Beccles Co-operative Society in north Suffolk.

Derek Harris



Sir Peter Carey, Japanese 'trade to look inward'

Japan 'needs to change' international trade view

By John Huxley

Japan must be prepared to adopt a "more internationally responsible attitude towards trade," says Sir Peter Carey, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Industry, said yesterday.

He told businessmen in London that because of Japan's history and geography, there was a tendency on the part of the Tokyo authorities to look inward and seek a solution to problems on a national rather than international basis.

For this reason Japan was "not a natural member of the international trading community," though she exports as much as she does.

Speaking to a conference organized by the Industrial Society, Sir Peter said that various aspects of Japanese trading policy were causing concern. He singled out her industrial concentration on a limited number of sectors, such as cars, consumer electronics and cameras, and her non-tariff barriers against the import of Western goods and services.

"I think we have got to exercise pressure on Japan to be more internationally responsible," Sir Peter said.

Sir Peter was anxious to dispel the myth of "the Japanese miracle," the title of the conference. There was nothing miraculous about Japan's recent industrial history, he said.

"We should not allow ourselves to become mesmerized by their success. Much of it is due to the fact that Japan has been extremely effective at doing the things all countries have set out to do."

The sharp fall in manufacturing output last year (15 per cent) accelerated a long-term trend in which manufacturing has been a declining proportion of total output. Whereas manufacturing represented 34 per cent of output in 1965, last year it was probably under 25 per cent.

The pattern of demand may be changing. Stocks need not increase to contribute to the growth of output; a smaller decline is sufficient. But to the extent that the change in stock-building raises imports, there will be no net benefit.

Fixed investment may fall more sharply in 1981, the fall amounting to 1-11 per cent of G.D.P. and consumption may also prove contractionary with the savings ratio not falling sufficiently to counter the impact of higher real levels of taxation. The overall effect of changes in the trade balance, which increased G.D.P. by 13 per cent in 1980, may diminish domestic output in 1981.

Excluding North Sea operations, the real return of United Kingdom companies declined to 2 per cent in March-September, 1980. Income gearing at 45 per cent was higher than the previous peak in 1974, but "real" capital gearing was significantly lower at less than 11 per cent.

Monetary base

The stance of monetary policy should be eased somewhat by the monetary steps

Debenhams reduces overseas buying to save British names

By Eeryl Downing

The Debenhams group is cutting its buying from abroad by 40 per cent this year in an attempt to "stop the erosion of a number of major British brand names."

The travel budget for the buyer from its 69 stores is to be halved as the group tries to meet new buying targets with 300 British suppliers.

An extra £100m will be added to the £300m retail value of British goods bought by the group last year creating, according to the company economist, 20,000 jobs in factories throughout the country.

The scheme began last year when a British merchandise development committee was formed by Mr Eric Crabtree, deputy chairman of Debenhams. The committee met 15 leading British conglomerates, covering around 40 per cent of the company's suppliers. A further list of 100 individual manufacturing companies was added to the first group later. The committee visited mills and factories and began to develop specially coordinated ranges, bringing together carpet and wallpaper manufacturers, potteries and fabric producers, all working to a specific brief.

"In many cases mills have been too far removed from the ultimate retail sale," Miss Helen Robinson, group stylist and deputy chairman of the committee, said. "We have to admit that our manufacturers have not always kept up with foreign competition on design and we have tried to bring them one step nearer the customer, which also means they will be poised for better export sales."

"The group is at pains to point out that this is not 'short-term flag-waving', but a permanent feature of its buying policy, a planned development which will take us through the 1980s."

The average store group devotes 75 per cent of its buying power to British goods. In Debenhams' case this will be increased to 90 per cent.

Call for 'radical' changes in chemicals industry

By Our Industrial Staff

Radically different processes must be developed by chemicals manufacturers if they are to achieve profitable growth during the 1980s, an industry leader said yesterday.

Mr William Duncan, deputy chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries and president of the Society of Chemical Industry, said there was an urgent need "to reduce capital costs, partly to reduce the costs of production, but even more to enable us to make the most of the limited funds available for investment."

Speaking at the society's centenary conference in Cambridge, he emphasized that significant change could come only from radical new chemistry, not from modifications of processes. New processes had to be developed for the next round of large-scale investment in 1985 to 1990.

Last year, output from the United Kingdom chemicals industry fell by more than 8 per cent, and a further small decline is expected this year. Investment plans have been scaled down, and few chemicals

companies have made money over the past three quarterly periods.

Some of these problems are associated with the recession and the loss of industrial customers, especially in the motor car and textile industries, but the industry has longer-term fears. Some of these were highlighted by Mr Duncan.

He said that Third World countries would become important markets but would also develop significant chemical industries of their own.

"If the industrialized nations are to reap the maximum benefit from the growth in world trade they will need to export a large proportion of highly-added-value chemicals."

Value not volume must be the prime aim if we are to generate a sizeable chunk of the 45 per cent of employment in the production of basic chemicals to the energy-rich countries, particularly in the Middle East, but also to countries in Western Europe with good indigenous carbon sources, provided that their governments ensure that the economic climate is sufficiently encouraging."

Investment

In its Financial Review the Bulletin notes a rise in the oil exporters' current account balance from \$65,000m in 1979 to \$105,000m in 1980. Of an estimated \$77,000m available for investment in the first six months, the Bank identifies investments of \$71,000m and says that the proportion of this latter figure placed in the United Kingdom and the United States fell to 37 per cent.

An article looking at the behaviour of commodity prices in the 1970s concludes that prices have become much more sensitive to short-run changes in world industrial activity. This volatility may make it more difficult to bring inflation under control in the 1980s.

Training levy move fails

By Patricia Tisdall

An attempt to extend the scope of those industrial training boards which remain after the Government's review was defeated by the parliamentary committee examining the Employment and Training Bill yesterday.

An Opposition amendment supported by building employers would have enabled local authorities and similar organizations to be subject to the same levy payments as private employers. The National Federation of Building Trades Employers is among the organizations petitioning for the change. The construction industry complains that many employees trained under the Construction Industry Training Board are "poached" by the public works departments of local authorities.

Speaking against the amendment, Mr David Waddington, Under Secretary of State for Employment, pointed out that departments there use voluntary local government training boards and that the levy would be used to fund voluntary measures by choice rather than because of any absence of legal power to set up a board.

From Mr Robert Foster

Sir, You devote considerable attention today to British Rail, with an editorial, an article and a letter in the Business News. Not once is there any mention of the word "time-table", the seedcorn of any passenger railway. Yet time-table planning techniques (and results), unless it is travelling to/from London, frequently leave much to be desired, with the result that trains are often very difficult to get around on.

There is no doubt that the investment funds hoped for by BR will regenerate the system (except that the proposed cross-London tunnel route would both be poor value for money and create numerous operating difficulties). A new and all-encompassing time-table, all approach to time-tableing, however, would benefit BR and vice versa, but at a cost almost nothing.

Your diarist reported (August 12, 1980) a BR spokesman as saying that it was looking at the much more modern Swiss and German time-tableing methods. This spokesman was in fact out of date as the initiative had by then been abandoned (except on the Scottish Region). The initiative should be resumed at the earliest possible time.

Both today's editorial, and your transport correspondent Michael Bailey when writing some months ago, recognize the industry's over-manning, and the editor of *Railway Gazette* International draws the attention of your readers from time to time to some of the worst instances. Sir Peter Parker is

likewise aware, and recently commented "productivity is the rock upon which we build". How is it then, that BR in one of its recent serial advertisements, accused those who criticize its over-manning, of being wrong? Sadly they are right.

The letter from Mr Anthony Smallhorn, a consulting engineer, discusses the advanced passenger train (APT) from an engineering rather than a commercial or operating standpoint. His comparison with Concorde, an engineering masterpiece but a white elephant financially, is unfortunate yet apt.

The ability to get the APT into service is the key to the APT mechanism right has already eluded BR engineers for a decade, and the train is not now expected to enter service until 1984. Even if APT does see the light of day, and supposing further that it is reliable in service, it will have a number of drawbacks. The principal one is that it is a fixed formation train; therefore the amount of coaches cannot be varied according to demand, a fault on one vehicle paralyses the whole train. The train cannot be split to serve two destinations, and it cannot run off the electrified system.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT H. FOSTER, 3 High Street, Sleaford, North Yorkshire.

From Mr R. G. R. Calvert

Sir, The over-concentration of resources on the high speed train and the advanced passenger train has had a disastrous effect.

From Sir Cyril Pickard

Sir, I note from the 1980 annual report of ICI, which I received this morning, that 10 directors and 130 employees received more than the permanent secretary to the Treasury in 1980; and another 115 received as much as a departmental permanent secretary (£31,000). The chairman was paid £134,853, a modest increase of 81 per cent. Pensions and gratuities to former directors amount to £2,630,000.

Since the reductions in the top bands of income tax in the 1979 Budget, justified as a necessary incentive to management, take home pay is no longer shown in the accounts. I calculate, however, that the take home pay of the highest paid has nearly doubled.

Profit before tax in 1980 fell by 54 per cent and the number of people employed by the company declined. What would have happened to profits and employment without these incentives to management?

C. S. PICKARD, 37A Brodick Road, London SW17.

New approach to rail timetables

From Mr Robert Foster

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C. S. PICKARD, 37A Brodick Road, London SW17.

From Mr A. Raymond

Sir, I have just read the second report from the Transport Committee of the House of Commons on the Channel link, which was published last month.

Unlike any other publication from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, the page numbering of the main text is in Roman numerals. Why is this? Could it be because Gaius Julius Caesar was the first continental who established the need for a fixed link between Gaul and Britain?

Yours faithfully, A. RAYMOND, Parlo's Hall, Mill Street, Low Town, Bridgnorth.

trous effect. There are spectacular services on a lines in contrast to indifference and mediocrity elsewhere.

If we take, for example, important group of ph Leicester, Derby, Nottingham and Sheffield: the inter-rail services between them no faster, and in most cases slower, than in 1938. F Sheffield to Manchester Liverpool the time on four is substantially slower before 1914. That some of more direct routes beyond cities are no longer available hardly likely to impress business men as a valid excuse.

Tilt trains, after the manner of APT, have already tried, with little success both North America Europe (Italy, Sweden Switzerland). Mr Small (March 26) compares AP Concorde, a brilliant piece engineering that nobody is to buy.

It would be better to concentrate available resource trying to lift the system whole out of the media into which it has sunk. At same time serious efforts be made to improve productivity and to market available services. Only when BR's is seen to increase, and its use is being made of available assets, should finance be j for new high speed (as in France, West Germany and Italy), or for serious alignment of existing route.

Yours faithfully, R. G. R. CALVERT, 35 Woodway, Oxhey, Watford WD1 4NN.

HMSO prices

From Mr R. H. McCall

Sir, The correspondence HMSO charges has produced evidence of surprising ignorance but has

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Aid for the ACC balance-sheet

Since disclosing substantial losses on film production and distribution in its records business in December, Lord Grade's Associated Communications Corporation has been wrestling with the balance sheet which at last sight was showing gearing of nearly 100 per cent.

It stopped all new film production after it became clear that the high-budget production *Raise the Titanic* was a financial flop; introduced tight cash controls and indicated that its Ansafone, telephone answering business, was for sale at the right price.

A purchaser has emerged in the form of an institution-backed management buy-out in the nick of time so far as the 1980/81 balance sheet is concerned. The £131m which ACC receives in cash comes in on the day that it closed its books on the year.

This will help but it will not solve ACC's problems at March 1980 net borrowings were over £70m and no-one suggests that the situation has improved since then.

News that President Reagan was on the road to recovery made for a quieter day on European foreign exchange markets yesterday after the overnight confusion in the United States. The dollar was easier, partly on slightly softer Eurodollar rates, but the Deutschmark was a clear beneficiary of the easing of tension in Poland. Meanwhile, it remains to be seen how long a breathing space the Belgians have been able to buy for their currency by hoisting their Bank Rate by three points to 16 per cent.

But Ansafone's sale may mark the turn of the tide. ACC has two important films coming onto the circuits shortly. *The Lone Ranger* and *The Great Muppet Caper*. It expects both to do well.

Meanwhile, following the IBA's decision that ATV must shed 49 per cent of its Midlands franchise to local investors, there is another looming problem in that new East Midlands studios demanded by the IBA, must be financed.

The idea apparently is that a new company will be formed to fund this, so it will be off-balance sheet borrowing for ACC.

Thus, while still smarting from the difficulties caused by the flamboyant move into film production, ACC is facing up to the realities of present conditions. What that means for shareholders should be clear when final results are published, but the shares at 47p are taking no chances following ACC's interim dividend cut.

Booker McConnell Engineering profits collapse

The £10m collapse in Booker McConnell's profits to £15.2m is mainly due to two factors familiar to British companies: high interest rates and the engineering slump.



Mr Michael Caine, chairman of Booker McConnell.

Interest charges soared from £3.79m to 9.56m, reflecting not so much higher rates as the much greater demand during the year for working capital, necessitated in part by absorbing Kearley & Tonge and Warriner & Iason. Net borrowings of £28m are almost the same as last year, but in the course of its trading year they reached twice that sum.

Interest rates may be outside the company's control, but it does admit to making mistakes in the engineering division where turnover was stark. From profits of 5.3m to losses of £1.3m in fact. The trouble seems to be the American companies, but the long-term future of Fletcher and Stewart Britain looks poor without more turnkey gear contracts and Fletcher Sutcliffe Wild beginning to suffer from the cutbacks in national Coal Board spending. At best, ten, Booker can only eliminate engineering losses this year.

International trading, now a less important part of the group, lost revenue because of nationalization of the Zambian retailing interests, and profits fell by 32 per cent to £900,000. Other divisions did well, however, with spirits and liquors particularly showing the benefit of raising the stake in United Rum Merchants to 100 per cent. Agriculture was up 30 per cent to £1.3m, gaining from the fast growing demand for white meat.

Even if the engineering losses can be eliminated—a tall order which may entail further redundancies—the other divisions are not big enough to pull Booker back to the 1979 profit level. Only food distribution, on which much hope is pinned, can do that, simply because acquisitions have increased the profit potential. If food goes well Booker could make £20m this year. In maintaining the dividend to give 4.46p gross, yielding 7.2 at last night's 62p, down 1p, the directors have allowed themselves flexibility.

Cape Industries A demonstration of confidence

Shares in most groups to do with building soared away months ago, but those in Cape Industries have not. It has a lingering, if dwindling association with asbestos; it is deep in automotive engineering; and last October it made a £9.2m cash call in the ratio of one-for-four at 157p with the existing shares at 195p.

The money was to help pay for the insulating materials business of Turner & Newall which cost £13m, and the issue was possible because Cape is still two-thirds owned by Charter Consolidated, now emerging as a cash-rich industrial holding group with little in the way of mining since it sold its Selection Trust shares to BP.

Quite what Charter intends for itself, let alone for Cape remains obscure, but for the moment it seems content to let Cape digest Newall Insulation, and then buy a sizable company in several months' time. Charter could be prepared to see its Cape stake fall to 51 per cent over the years which should make for a freer market.

Meanwhile pretax profits last year plunged from £12.5m to £6.7m. The automotive division went from profits before interest and tax of £1.2m to losses of £3.38m, and with 1979's mining contribution absent, building and insulation had to hold the line. Here, profits rose from £12.01m to £12.83m.

The decision to keep the dividend is said to be a sign of confidence, which is as well because its cost of £3.1m compared with £5.3m of net profits before extraordinary (reorganization and closure) items of £5.9m, and actual losses in current account terms. Automotive stocking has stopped, and streamlining should eliminate last year's losses.

Last year, interest charges rose from £2.0m to £2.6m thanks to the Newall acquisition, and heavy capital spending, but the trend should be better this year. The shares slipped 4p to 212p yesterday where they yield 7.5 per cent.

Dupont A close run thing

Dupont can only have been a heartbeat away from death to judge from the circular to shareholders detailing its financial predicament following the run-down of its steel activities and sale of part of the division to the British Steel Corporation.

As it is the circular only deals with the first stage of the group's recovery, the debt reconstruction part, and there still remains the difficult problem of a capital reconstruction to eliminate the thumping £13.4m deficit on reserves that can be distributed which the board says will preclude any dividend being available until 1982-84.

Not surprisingly, it is the group's bankers who emerge with the whip hand following the debt reconstruction. In return for repaying £144m of highly restrictive loan capital, the banks are getting £2.5m of preference shares, where the conversion and participation rights will be maintained after the proposed capital reconstruction, and £2m of convertible loan stock.

In any event, the pre-forma balance sheet, showing gearing of over 70 per cent even after the BSC payment and net worth down from £67.2m to £15.2m, along with continuing losses in the current year after losses in the year to last January of £15.1m suggests that it is going to be a long struggle but the £6m capitalization at the suspension price of 12p is probably a reasonable value for the continuing businesses.

Brussels Mr Wilfried Martens' Fourth coalition government gave up yesterday in the face of a good old fashioned speculative run on the Belgian franc.

The Belgian prime minister told the his now well worn path to the king's palace to offer his resignation because his coalition of French and Flemish speaking Christian and Socialist parties were unable to agree on the sweeping policies he had proposed to avoid a devaluation of the nation's currency. The resignation was not immediately accepted and the king will today continue his consultations in an effort to resolve the crisis.

Mr Martens' cabinet spent until four o'clock on Monday morning—eight hours in all—discussing his proposals. These were the suspension until next January of Belgium's system of index-linking wages to inflation and the cutting of petrol, tobacco and alcohol out of a new cost of living basket to be used for indexation from the beginning of next year.

Despite further talks yesterday the prime minister failed to win over his Socialist coalition partners. It was left to the national bank to stop the political vacuum created by the crisis in the government. It pushed up bank rate by a swingeing three percentage points to 16 per cent to give the franc some relief from the hammering it has received over the past week on the foreign exchange markets.

For this latest of the many government crises to hit Belgium was precipitated by a massive haemorrhage of the country's foreign exchange reserves as the national bank fought last week to keep the franc above its international floor levels against other currencies in the European Monetary System.

On Thursday and Friday of last week the bank had to spend 22,000m francs worth of foreign exchange reserves to keep the franc in the system. This massive intervention—equivalent to £280m—reflected a rapid increase in speculation against the Belgian currency and brought the bank's loss of reserves to 57,000m francs since the beginning of March and 98,000m since January 1. The issue of the franc was a damning international thumbs down for a government which was set up only five and a half months beforehand specifically to tackle Belgium's economic problems.

The difficulties that have upset Mr Martens' fourth government are only partly his fault. The recession in Belgium is, as everywhere else in Europe, proving to be deeper and longer than people expected. But he has tended to prevaricate and he has frittered away a large part of the goodwill which would probably have ensured acceptance for radical changes at the very beginning of his administration.

By the time Mr Martens decided to offer his resignation he had become too timid for the foreign exchange markets and too bold for the socialist members of his cabinet. In proposing a temporary suspension and eventual relaxing of the Belgian system of index-linking wages and other income to the rise in the cost of living he attacked one of the Belgian socialist movement's most sacred cows. Belgium has the most comprehensive system of indexation of any country in Western Europe.

Peter Norman

What went wrong in Belgium

Mr Wilfried Martens (right), the Prime Minister, failed to win the agreement of his Socialist coalition partners to tough economic measures aimed at supporting the franc



Wages, salaries, rents and unemployment payments all rise in line with inflation. Advocates of the system argue that it has helped to guarantee social peace in a country where unemployment seems now firmly established above 10 per cent of the working population and where factory closures are an almost daily occurrence.

But the index system has ensured that Belgium stays at or near the top of the world league table for wage costs per unit of production, while at the same time depriving the government of any freedom to determine the exchange rate of the franc.

The embattled defence of the nation's currency is not a reply in miniature of Britain's stubborn refusal to devalue sterling in the 1960s. The forerunners of Belgian monetary policy know that any devaluation is bound to feed inflation. Apart from Luxembourg, Belgium has the highest dependence on foreign trade of any EEC member state. A devaluation of the franc would inevitably raise the price of imported goods. As imports are equivalent to about half of

gross national product the cost of living index would be pushed upwards. Indexation would then trigger corresponding increases in wages, salaries and other charges.

In short, a devaluation, unless very modest or skilfully managed, could set off a vicious circle of rising wages and spiralling prices. Previous Belgian devaluations in the context of the European monetary system and its predecessor, the European currency "snake", were modest affairs and controlled without too serious an impact on domestic inflation. But during 1980 Belgium's balance of payments and internal budgetary positions deteriorated markedly, so that market operators are no longer looking for a devaluation of 2 or 3 per cent but one of 10, 12 or even 15.

Two deficits have dogged the Belgian government's efforts to put its economic house in order. That in the current account balance of payments rose to nearly 200,000m francs last year and is likely to worsen further in 1981. A week ago, the govern-

ment announced 30,000m francs worth of spending cuts in an attempt to keep the country's deficit on currency budgetary operations down to 150,000m francs this year.

The foreign exchange markets were not impressed. Over the first two months of this year Belgium's overall government debt jumped by no less than 121,000m francs to 2,078,000m. This huge load of debt—equivalent to £2,690 for every man, woman and child in the country—is the highest per capita debt of any western nation.

Expressed in percentages of gross national product, Belgium will have the highest current account balance of payments deficit and the biggest net public sector borrowing requirement of all EEC member states except Ireland this year.

The fourth Martens' government relied on a policy of budget cuts and wage restraint to tackle the country's economic problems. After taking office last October it has been strong on promises but, as the galloping state debt shows, short on results. It has tended to attribute far greater stringency to its policies than has actually been the case. At times its reactions have seemed perverse. Mr Martens and his cabinet battled for weeks to push a statutory incomes package through parliament only to withdraw the initiative in February and accept a weaker voluntary pact between employers and unions.

As time progressed, the government cut an ever sadder figure. Cabinet meetings were set aside to decide budget cuts, but decisions were then postponed. Emergency cabinet meetings at the weekend became almost routine.

Sunday's exercise, when the cabinet met fruitlessly until almost dawn on Monday, appears in retrospect to have been inevitable given the geometrical progression of prevarication in the face of Belgium's economic problems.

Whatever happens, last week's message from the financial markets was that Belgium must take radical measures to tackle its problems. Mr Martens' answer was to try to cut the Gordian knot of indexation. He failed, but in failing put the issue fully into the course of Belgian politics.

Opening Whitehall's files to the public

Consumer groups want greater access to information gathered at the public's expense. Robin Young discusses areas likely to attract special interest

equipment for public purchase. It is as if the Consumers' Association in Britain could ask what made government buyers prefer one manufacturer's stacking chairs to another—and get the answer. The Nazi might similarly have to account for its taste in instant coffee and so on.

Could it then, happen here? Certainly, there is a lot of important information in government keeping which consumer organisations and pressure groups, not to mention newspapers, would love to get their hands on.

A favourite target would be the Ministry of Agriculture's files on food additives. At present it is necessary to scour learned journals and World Health Organization reports to find what little information there is on British research into the subject. In America, by contrast, anyone interested can see all the details of the Food and Drug Administration's laboratory tests.

Information on cigarettes would also be a prime goal of researchers. The Department of Health and Social Security has (but does not publish) figures for the carbon monoxide yield of all the cigarette brands sold in Britain. Carbon monoxide is thought to increase the risk of heart disease and to affect unborn babies. Yields are regularly published in Sweden and Canada and readily available in the United States.

but in Britain if you want to know you must analyse the cigarettes yourself.

Pressure could also be expected from those interested in cars. Researchers would be particularly keen to examine two sets of files—first, those on MOT testing stations, and secondly the dossiers on the recall of cars.

Every year the Department of Transport deletes 400 MOT testing stations from its list. It could be because the garage in question does not want to continue with the work or it could be because of fraud or incompetence.

Car owners who have their cars serviced there would have an obvious interest in knowing an answer applied. At present the information is withheld.

As for the recalling of cars by manufacturers to correct faults, many consumerists are concerned that the Department of Transport can never tell an intending second-hand car purchaser whether the vehicle has been the subject of such a recall and whether it has been properly attended to. The availability of the information depends on the manufacturers.

Also, under the present voluntary code of practice, the initiation of car recall campaigns depends on manufacturers' reports. There is a plain division of interest between the desire to avoid accidents and the wish to protect the reputation of the product. In some cases it would be possible to learn more about the safety defects in British cars by looking at the information available about export models in America than by relying on the little that is revealed in Britain.

Should there be any restriction on the public's access to this sort of information? Freedom of information campaigners insist that there should, of course, always be exemptions where legitimate commercial

confidentiality is concerned. The trouble is that commercial confidentiality is at present almost invariably defined by those who have vested interests. There is no counterbalancing test of legitimate public interest.

The idea that uncomfortable disclosures might ultimately be in the public interest hardly exists in English law as yet. The recent case involving Granada television and British Steel illustrated the point.

Commercial confidentiality would no doubt be the subject of much litigation if freedom of information did come to Britain. That has been the experience in America. But the British public, it is argued, which is the only ultimate guarantor that anyone will behave themselves—whether they are a public authority, big business concern or private individual—will welcome much more real if the freedom of information campaigners get their way.

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The famous name of the Plaza Athénée dates back to the 19th century; the present hotel was opened 70 years ago and has long set the standard by which other world-class hotels may be judged.

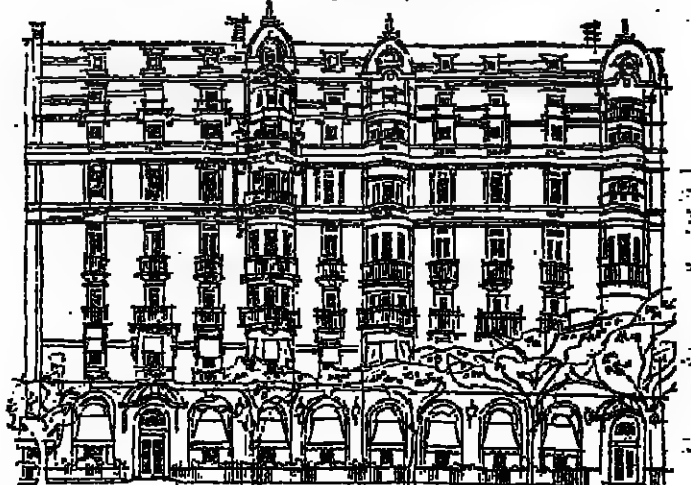
Standing in the Avenue Montaigne, off the Champs Elysees, the Plaza Athénée has a quiet, relaxed elegance unmatched in even the most elegant of cities. Its 216 rooms, which include 37 superb suites, are all furnished in the style of Louis XV or Louis XVI. The Regence Restaurant has been honoured with the highest accolade for its ultimate excellence; gourmets find similar pleasures in the Le Relais Restaurant, resplendent in its 30s decor.

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A TRISTHOUSE FOR THE EXCLUSIVE HOTEL.

Business Diary: Hot-foot to the BSI • Brewers over a barrel?

I was dreaming up an April idyl. Day joke story I would like to tell the tale of Gordon Green and his thermal sock. Green is managing director of Leabrooks, based at Riddings, Derbyshire, part of the Charles Hall Group, the largest dependent socks manufacturer in the United Kingdom. He wants Robert Fielden, sector general of the British Standards Institution, to come with a British Standard for thermal—thats is, air-retaining—socks in order to protect firms such as his own. These are seen to undercut by what he sees inferior products, which are normally exported but—links to the strong pound—are ing dumped here.

And now to Manchester, where a BSI's textiles unit, and a spokesman for Fielden told me yesterday that the only thermal sock they had for anything approaching a garment is BS 15—for the jackets on domestic water cylinders.

There is also BS 4745, for thermal resistance textiles. But as for socks, it, BSI says, must await a "mal approach from Green or others of like mind."

Green's standard British sock would have thermal material at the skin, Terry fabric terryfoot and natural fibre outle to absorb perspiration.

Captain Mac McKenzie, one of the best-known and liked of British civil fliers, is to run an air training school which is to be opened by American Airlines at Crawley, Sussex, and which will base its teaching on flight simulators. "Mac" as he is universally known, newly retired as flight operations director of British Caledonian Airways, has become managing director of American Airlines Training, which will run the Crawley centre (based a few miles south of Gatwick).

The first of four simulators, each costing about £4m, is being installed and there is room to build boys for a further four. British Caledonian and Laker have signed long-term contracts to train their DC10 pilots at the school.

MacKenzie says that the time is right for such a simulator training school because airlines



Captain MacKenzie, who wants to save fuel by reducing training flights and because aviation authorities are moving towards "zero time" training, under which pilots are allowed to transfer their qualifications from one type of jet to another entirely on simulators.

"Terminal illness" is, like "thought" one of those phrases misappropriated by advertisers to put the frighteners on customers who might otherwise hang on to their cash.

NKR Environment, however, it means not a fatal sickness, but the office equivalent of housemaid's knee, the headaches, eyestrain, backaches and stiffness of the wrists and neck caused by working at computer terminals and visual display units with the wrong sort of furniture and lighting.

There is a good chance to examine this problem and some of the commercial solutions in an admirable exhibition.

The Office and the Information Revolution, is at the Royal Institution of British Architects, Portland Place, London. But hurry—it closes tonight.



Sir Kenneth Cork (above), doyen of company liquidators, is taking an interest of a different sort—in ITV.

Sir Kenneth is chairman of Griffin Productions, a new company backed mainly by the Midland Bank. He is abroad at present, but Griffin non-executive director David Harrison tells me: "It is basically a group of creative and business people who are interested in providing programmes to meet a new challenge with first-class organization and financial backing."

The company is keeping the names of some of its creative acquisitions close to its chest since they are still working for other employers at the moment. One who has stepped forward is Mike Tugner, who directed the television play *Bar Mitzvah Boy*.

Sir Kenneth chairs the Royal Shakespeare Theatre but, Harrison says, we should not hear

into this any suggestion that Griffin will concentrate on drama.

Peter Anwyll, chief negotiator of the National Union of Students "Bars working party", tells me that he and his team have pulled off a refreshing discount deal with four of the biggest brewers.

Allied, Watney Mann, S & N and Courage, Anwyll says, have agreed to give student unions an average discount of 15 per cent on the 44.5m pints of beer they buy each year.

This deal, usually extended only to the likes of Trusthouse Forte, is the equivalent of 4p a pint off, the same as the Chancellor has just put on. Two other brewers, Whitbread and Bass Charrington, would not follow suit, despite the slump in beer sales, so the working party is recommending unions to withdraw their custom.

Next on the discount trail? Anwyll tips food and stationery.

Reports on oil company prospects emerge regularly from the well-known city stockbroker firm of Phillips and Drew, which seems to be doing its own bit to boost oil consumption. It boasts a private underground car park, yet bans the humble bicycle which, it seems, "looks untidy."

Ross Davies

Wallchart

LIFE GETS VERY COMPLICATED NOWADAYS...



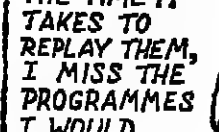
OLYN WALL

I TREATED MYSELF TO A TV VIDEO RECORDER TO TAPE PROGRAMMES I WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE MISSED...



...BUT DURING THE TIME IT TAKES TO REPLAY THEM, I MISS THE PROGRAMMES I WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE SEEN...

...BUT DURING THE TIME IT TAKES TO REPLAY THEM, I MISS THE PROGRAMMES I WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE SEEN...



...BUT DURING THE TIME IT TAKES TO REPLAY THEM, I MISS THE PROGRAMMES I WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE SEEN...

Age	Sex	Marital Status	Occupation	Income	Assets	Liabilities	Net Worth
60	M	Married	Manager	\$10,000	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
55	F	Married	Teacher	\$8,000	\$80,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
45	M	Single	Engineer	\$12,000	\$120,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
35	F	Married	Nurse	\$9,000	\$90,000	\$45,000	\$45,000
25	M	Single	Student	\$5,000	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
15	F	Single	Child	\$2,000	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
10	M	Single	Child	\$1,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
5	F	Single	Child	\$500	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$2,500
1	M	Single	Child	\$250	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$1,250

Author

sized Units,

Onshore & Offshore

[illegible]

Authorized Units,

sized Units,

1980-81			1989-91		
High	Low		High	Low	
Bid	Offer	Trend	Bid	Offer	Trend

[illegible][illegible]

Institutional support

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

RECENT ISSUES		Closing Price
Bristol Water & Gas Red Pref 1986 (7 1/2)		\$100 1/2
British Aerospace 500s Inv Trd (150)		186 1/2
Coca-Cola Bottling Co of Am Inv Trd (12 1/2)		186 1/2
Dyn 8 1/2% Deb 1985 (100)		100 1/2
Emley-Trans Pac 8 1/2% Deb Trd (75)		100 1/2
Eschschuer 12 1/2% Deb 1990 (100)		100 1/2
Eschschuer 12 1/2% Deb 1990 (100)		100 1/2
Lon Merchants Sec 7 1/2% Conv Ltr 2000-05		100 1/2
Mid-Sussex Water 8 1/2% Deb Red 1985 (1)		100 1/2
Mid-Sussex Water 8 1/2% Deb (125)		100 1/2
North Eastern Oil Trd 8 1/2% Deb 1100-		100 1/2
Oil and Gas Production 20s Ord (124)		100 1/2
Portals 8 1/2% Deb 1985 (100)		100 1/2
Sutton District Wtr & Gas Red Pref 1985 (1)		100 1/2
Sutton District Wtr & Gas Red Pref 1985 (1)		100 1/2
Treasury 12 1/2% Deb (10)		100 1/2
Treasury 24s Index Linked 1996 (1)		100 1/2
West Hampshire Wtr & Gas Red Pref 1986 (7 1/2)		100 1/2

RIGHTS ISSUES		Latest date of payment	Yield
Barclay Dodge A (12 1/2)		Apr 30	2 1/2
Broken Hill Properties (173)		Apr 30	2 1/2
Midland A (12 1/2)		Apr 30	2 1/2

ISSUE PRICE IN PARENTHESES		Yield
Issued by tender A: Nil paid A 250 paid A		2 1/2
Issued by tender B: Nil paid B 250 paid B		2 1/2

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26



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We are an international sales organisation looking for a Secretary to work in our new luxury head office in Harrow. The successful candidate will have good secretarial skills, a sense of humour, an ability to work on their own initiative and be able to communicate with customers in a friendly manner.

In addition to excellent salary, we offer:

- ★ Luncheon vouchers of £5 per week.
- ★ Free buffet lunch.
- ★ Four weeks' holiday per annum.
- ★ Interest-free season ticket loan.

If you would like to join our young, successful team, please write, enclosing c.v., to:

PHILIP STEPHENS THE TUPPERWARE COMPANY
43 UPPER GROSVENOR STREET
LONDON W1X 0BE

CHARMING BUT DEMANDING PERFECTIONIST

needs
LIVELY FIRST-CLASS ASSISTANT

to work for him in the highly stimulating environment of international asset finance. If you have a sense of humour and initiative, and if you want a genuine outlet for your energy and ability, then you may be the person for whom our team is looking.
For further information please contact Miss J. Bayle on 01-839 1447 between 2.30 and 6.30 p.m. today or tomorrow, or apply directly with c.v. to Special Projects Group, Security Pacific International Leasing (Europe), Inc., 6 Suffolk Street, London SW1X 4EG.
No agencies

ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR OF HOUSING TRUST IN WC1

Salary c. £6,250

Varied work with young and enthusiastic staff requiring initiative and involvement of Trustee and Senior Management level. Good secretarial skills and knowledge of English essential. Although you will have part-time secretarial assistance, interest in housing, preferably, although previous experience not necessary. Non-contributory pension; flex-time; 22 days' holiday.
To apply, please write, enclosing c.v. to:

The Director, The Samuel Lewis Housing Trust, 10 Great James Street, London WC1N 3DP

OIL COMPANY TO £8,300

Be a right hand to a busy Senior Manager who needs enthusiasm, initiative and the ability to undertake your own correspondence in a vibrant organisation, where there is plenty of scope for advancement. You will be in your early 20s, with good shorthand and typing skills and fast learner. You will be working closely with a hard worker. Close to Tube in Central London.

01-408 1611

MacBlain NASH
Recruitment Consultants

PART TIME FOR HARLEY STREET SURGEON

Experienced medical secretary with knowledge of medical terminology required for a Harley Street Surgeon. The job is varied and you will need to have shorthand and some audio skills (I.B.M. Goldstar). Excellent salary.
Please telephone 935 4101 (after 10 a.m.)

PA/SECRETARY to Director

Personal Consultancy
No Street. c. £8,000 + bonus

Universally interesting job, working for a young Director in a highly innovative, demanding and fast-paced environment. The job includes personal assistant work on individual assignments, telephone work, report writing, etc. If you're 25-35 with intelligent, good experience, fast typing, a good salary and a flexible career.

P.A. SEC. £7,000 neg

Use admin. abilities and initiative in P.A. to Director of a growing international company. Use initiative for challenging assignments in developing new company.
FASHION/FIBRETEXTILES £5,500
Opportunity to use personality, initiative and admin. skills in a full P.A. position.

J.F. CONSULTANTS

01-493 6212

OIL c. £6,000

At 24 years Secretary in this trendy organisation near Marble Arch. Your head for figures and shorthand secretarial skills will be well rewarded. Plenty of scope for the right person. More details from Hazelina Wynne, Nigma Appointments, 493 4372.

LEGAL SHORTHAND/ SECRETARY

Large Lincoln Inn Solicitors require experienced legal audio secretary, age 25+ to work for the Assistant Solicitors. The work is varied and will cover court proceedings, interviews, and other legal work. Applicants should be educated to GCSE level standard and have a typing speed of at least 35 wpm and audio skills. Salary up to £7,500 p.a. a.e., 4 weeks holiday, LVS pension scheme and other benefits.
Call Jan De Maat or Stella Parker on 01-408 1611 for an informal chat.

Opportunity for promotion to position of Trainee Personal Assistant in the medium term

Receptionist/Telephonist

CITY £3,500-£5,000
A vacancy exists for a well spoken presentable Receptionist with typing skills, aged from 17 years to look after a small busy reception area. Duties will include the reception of visitors and the operation of a PMBX 4x18 switchboard and memory typewriter. A high degree of enthusiasm, organisational ability and discretion are essential. A full training with a view to promotion to the position of Trainee Personal Assistant in the medium term will be provided. Initial remuneration negotiable, £3,500-£5,000 including profit sharing incentive scheme and after one year's service, free BUPA, free Life Assurance and free Permanent Sickness schemes.
Applications to Mrs Avril Clifton on 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576

SECRETARY

£6,500

The Group Solicitor/Company Secretary of a substantial public company with a small friendly head office off The Strand (near the Law Courts) requires an intelligent and capable secretary. Both shorthand and audio work is involved. Legal experience is not essential, but helpful. The ideal candidate will be able to operate the latest equipment/techniques (including word processing for which full training will be provided) coupled with an ability to handle administrative responsibilities. Essential: 4 weeks holiday, non-contributory pension scheme and bonus scheme. Age preferred 25-35.
An interesting and rewarding opportunity for someone with a sound secretarial background wishing to broaden his/her interests in a permanent position with good long-term prospects.
Tel. Angela 01-836 9261

ENGLISH/PORTUGUESE SECRETARY

Smart, young, bilingual Secretary required by Deputy General Manager of Brazilian bank in the City. Age 19-22. Salary £5,000 negotiable plus bonus; plus usual bank benefits, lovely offices, ideal for college leaver or second jobber.
Contact Philippa Lubomirski, 01-623 2291

MARKETING ASSISTANT

COMPUTER SERVICES COMPANY

A vacancy has occurred for a graduate with some computer experience and ability to work in association with the Marketing Director of a successful U.K. computer services company. The successful candidate will be a person with a good knowledge of the computer field, a good knowledge of the marketing field, and a good knowledge of the computer field. The successful candidate will be a person with a good knowledge of the computer field, a good knowledge of the marketing field, and a good knowledge of the computer field.
Please reply in writing enclosing a curriculum vitae to: MacBlain NASH, 10 Great James Street, London WC1N 3DP

SECRETARIES GERMANY

Up to £9,500
We have great opportunities for young secretaries with a good command of German. The job is varied and you will need to have shorthand and some audio skills (I.B.M. Goldstar). Excellent salary.
Please telephone 935 4101 (after 10 a.m.)

PROPERTY MARBLE ARCH

Small property development and international trading company, offices in Marble Arch, needs mature (preferred 30-40) energetic Secretary/PA. Good typing, shorthand not essential. This is a most office, there is great scope for initiative, responsibility and advancement. Salary £5,500 to £6,000 negotiable.
Phone 01-402 5614

ESTATE AGENTS W1

Experienced Secretary (20's-30's). For busy residential department of Mayfair Estate Agents. Audio/typing desirable. General office duties and the ability to work on own initiative. Salary £5,000 negotiable. Please contact C.M.A.M., 91-93 1401.

MAYFAIR SECRETARY

£6,500
A leading firm of international management consultants seeks a mature secretary with a good knowledge of the English language. The successful candidate will be a person with a good knowledge of the English language, a good knowledge of the marketing field, and a good knowledge of the computer field.
Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
18 Grosvenor Street London W1
Telephone 01-499 2921

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Call Jan De Maat or Stella Parker on 01-408 1611 for an informal chat.

is featured on Wednesdays and Thursdays

For details ring 01-278 9161

